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YOUNG HENRY THOREAU IN THE ANNALS OF THE CONCORD ACADEMY (1829—1833)

By the EDITOR.

The present study attempts to treat the early facts of Thoreau's life—some hitherto ungathered—* against their necessary background, which alone can give them full significance. (Most early details are meaningless unless related to the life of his family or to the institutions which guided him in the formative years.) My approach will, therefore, involve setting forth the "annals" of the academy which prepared him for college and which for many other reasons--soon to be apparent--must receive more attention from biographers than they have given it. The principal sources of these "annals" may be set forth briefly:

(1) A manuscript entitled "Records of the Concord Academic Debating Society," except for three pages completely reproduced as an appendix to this article. The heading includes: "Mr. Phinias Allen—Teacher." (Permission to edit this record has been granted by the owner—The Concord Free Public Library.)

(2) The Diary of George Moore, of Concord, now divided between two institutions, both of which have given me permission carefully to edit it in my forthcoming The Transcendentalists and Minerva, where I intend to give an adequate bibliographical description.

(3) Papers of Phineas Allen, presented to the Concord Free Public Library on September 19, 1898, by Horatio F. Allen, of 1018 East Madison Ave., Cleveland, Ohio, the preceptor's son. According to his letter of gift to the librarian (now among the papers) he earlier sent other manuscripts from his father's estate to Alfred W. Hosmer, of Concord, among them Thoreau's Academy theme on "The Seasons," reprinted below. (Hosmer's collection has since been given to the Concord Free Public Library.)

(4) Records in the Harvard University Archives, edited here with the permission of its custodian, Clifford K. Shipton, Esq.

(5) Testimonials scattered through the important printed Memoirs of the Social Circle in Concord.

(6) Obituary notices, chiefly from Concord and Boston newspapers.

The principal results of such a study may also be enumerated:

(1) We shall be introduced to Thoreau's intellectual preparation for Harvard by noting the curriculum as recorded in Allen's papers and in Moore's diary. We here provide a rich harvest of concrete references.

(2) We shall see a few of the "lapses" of a twelve-year-old Henry Thoreau through the eyes of an eighteen-year-old George Moore, who not only wrote in a diary but also kept the minutes of the Debating Society.

(3) We shall have, for the first time, an adequate working list of Thoreau's immediate friends and classmates in Concord, many of whom continued loyal through the Harvard years. Dozens of new clues for further research emerge from these relationships. The following eighteen boys were his companions in the Debating Society:

* References to the Concord Academy of Thoreau's early years--all inadequate or incomplete--include: Henry Stephen Salt, Life of Henry David Thoreau, London, 1896; Annie Russell Marble, Thoreau: His Home, Friends and Books, N.Y., [c. 1902]; Hubert H. Hoeltje, "Thoreau and the Concord Academy," N E Q, XXI, no. 1 (March, 1948), pp. 103-109; Townsend Scudder, Concord: American Town, Boston, 1947.

EDWARD JOSIAH STEARNS	Bedford	H.U. 1833
WILLIAM WHITING, JR.	Concord	H.U. 1833
JOHN THOREAU	Concord	
RUFUS BIGELOW LAWRENCE	Groton	H.U. 1833-1834
JOSIAH GARDNER DAVIS		
EBENEZER ROCKWOOD HOAR	Concord	H.U. 1835
DANIEL BAXTER STEADMAN	Boston	
NATHANIEL GEORGE AUGUSTUS PARKER	Boston	
WILLIAM MACKAY PRICHARD	Concord	H.U. 1833
JONATHAN FAY BARRETT	Concord	
EDWARD HENRY WHITE		
BENJAMIN F. WHYTE	Brookline	
ISAAC FISKE		
WILLIAM BAKER	Boston	
GEORGE MOORE	Concord	H.U. 1834
CHARLES BOWERS	Concord	
EDWARD WRIGHT	Concord	
ANDREW FISKE	Weston	

(Entered H.U. with the Class of 1836.)

[STEADMAN in the club minutes; Allen spells it STEDMAN]

The Concord social group to which the Thoreau brothers belonged also included:

REUBEN NATHANIEL RICE		
GEORGE F. BEMIS		
WILLIAM S. ROBINSON		
ALBERT HOBART NELSON		
HENRY MOORE		H.U. 1833
REUBEN MOORE		
JOHN B. MOORE		
HIRAM BARRETT DENNIS		H.U. 1835
FRANCIS MUNROE		
RUFUS HOSMER	Stow	H.U. 1834

(4) We shall be able to witness the operation of the declamation-debating program of New England schools. All or almost all the members of these speaking societies declaimed--that is, recited prose or poetry--at every meeting. After declamations came the announced debate. Both the subject and the names of the contestants were published in advance so that the members might familiarize themselves with the former and come prepared to assist the latter. Though, because of his extreme youth, Thoreau participated in fewer debates than the older boys, we may assume that he recited something, standing on his feet, at almost every meeting.

(5) We shall be inclined to value the services of Phineas Allen more highly than some of his students were inclined to do.

(6) We shall find the chronological system useful in relating and giving significance to, additional early facts in Henry's life as research brings them to our attention.

(7) We shall be able to witness Thoreau's significance along with outline biographies of his prominent townsmen and academy classmates.

It seems desirable to begin the record in the summer of 1828---six months before Thoreau seems to have enrolled in the Concord Academy under its preceptor, Phineas Allen.

1828, AUG. 23] (From the Yeoman's Gazette, Aug. 30, 1828, p. 3:) CONCORD ACADEMY.---The pupils of this Seminary, under the care of Mr. ALLEN, underwent an examination on Saturday last.--Their attention had been directed to the ancient and modern languages, and nearly all the branches of English education, in all of which their prompt and intelligent answers manifested a thorough knowledge of the books, they had studied. We think the parents and other persons, interested in the pupils, and in the cause of good learning, must have had their highest expectations gratified on this occasion. Such being the result of his past labors, the TEACHER cannot fail to have a recompense of reward in the increased number of scholars, and a continuance of public confidence hereafter. ¶ The next term of the Academy begins on Monday the 8th of September. Young ladies and gentlemen, who come from a distance, will find good accommodations for boarding in this town on very reasonable terms, and at no great distance from the Academy.

1828, AUG. 23] ("Studies pursued the quarter ending Aug 23d 1828"---sheet found among the Allen papers---indicates the scope of the examination:)

Languages

French---Fables de Fenelon, Recueil Choisi, La Henriade---Bibliotheque Portative, Telemaque, Charles XII--

Latin-----Historia Sacra, Viri Romae, Latin Tutor. Virgil, Horace, Sallust Tacitus, Cicero's Orations Class in the Latin Grammar

Greek----Greek Reader, Hesiod, Sophocles

English Branches--

Fowle's Geography, Worcester's Geography, Worcester's Sketches & History, Grimshaw's History of the United States, Wilkin's Astronomy, Blair's Rhetoric, Conversations on Natural Philosophy, Say's Political Economy, Stewart's Mental Philosophy, Euler's Algebra, Book-keeping by Single & Double Entry, Reading, Spelling, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Composition & Declamation--- [Format simplified.]

1828, AUG. 23] ("Order of Declamation" from the Allen papers:) [I simplify the punctuation.]

Henry Vose----------Prose----------Bishop Heber
E. R. Hoar----------Poetry---------Mrs. Hemans
Wm. Whiting----Nature's Farewell--Mrs. Hemans
A. H. Nelson----Extract from---------Campbell
Dialogue--- A. Parker, J. Thoreau, H. Vose, S. Hidden
H. Vose------The Pilgrim Fathers-----Pierpont
E. R. Hoar------Extract from---------Burke
Wm. Whiting-----Greece---------------Original
A. H. Nelson-----Valedictory---------Original

1828, SEPT.] ("List of Scholars who have attended the present quarter. Concord Sept. 2 1828" in the Allen papers. It apparently refers to the quarter just completed.)

Martha Adams
Sarah Davis Clarke of Brookline
Susan Elvira Wheeler
Elizabeth Hoar
Jane Tarbell of Lincoln
Hannah Reed Batcheller of Grafton
Sarah Stone Batcheller of Grafton
Sarah Sherman Hoar
Mary Davis
Augusta Davis

Frances Jane Hallett Prichard
Louisa Jane Whiting
Frances Ann Parker Percival of Lincoln
Sarah Dodge Atwill of Boston
Abby Hubbard Davis
Ann Maria Whiting
Caroline Downes Brooks
Martha Ann Field of Lincoln
Mary Wetherby of Acton
Elizabeth Hallett Prichard
Lucy Miles

Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar
William Whiting
Rufus Bigelow Lawrence of Groton
Edward Josiah Stearns of Lincoln
Stephen Hidden
John Thoreau
Josiah Gardner Davis
Daniel Stedman of Boston
Henry Vose of Boston
Nathaniel George Augustus Parker of Boston
Augustus Robbins of Harvard

1828, SEPT. 8] (Fourth quarter began on this day. The following announcement appeared in the Yeoman's Gazette on Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6:)

CONCORD ACADEMY. ¶ THE subscriber informs his friends and the public, that his School will be open for the reception of Boarding and Day Scholars. The fall term to commence on Monday, Sept. 8. Parents who send from a distance are informed that the Preceptor will be particularly attentive to the improvement of all who may be placed under his care, in good morals and correct manners; and that the instruction given shall be thorough, in all the branches usually taught in the Academies and Schools in the vicinity. He hopes by devoting himself to his employment as a teacher, and by his unremitted exertions for the improvement of his pupils, to merit a continuance of that encouragement which he has hitherto received.... PHINEHAS ALLEN, Preceptor."

1828, SEPT. 8] (List of studies pursued during the third quarter, from the Allen papers:)

Languages.

French----Fables de Fenelon. Bibliothéque Portative. La Henriade, Entretiens de Phocion de Mably
Latin-----Historiae Sacrae, Three classes---- Caesar's Commentaries, Virgil, Horace, Cicero, Sallust. Part of 2d & all of 3d vol. of Tacitus. Two classes in the Latin Grammar
Greek-----Part of Sophocles, & Euripides, Theocritus, Bion, Moschus, Simonides, &c. Cleveland's Greek Antiquities.

English Branches.

Arithmetic, Geography, Worcester's Sketches, Wilkins Astronomy, Blair's Rhetoric, Conversations on Natural Philosophy, Do...Chemistry. Colburn's & Euler's Algebra, Legendre's Geometry, Enfield's Natural Philosophy, Reading and Spelling, Composition & Declamation.

1828, OCT.] Organization of the Concord Academic Debating Society, with the following Charter Members: Edward Josiah Stearns, William Whiting, Jr., John Thoreau, Rufus Bigelow Lawrence, Josiah Gardner Davis, and, possibly, Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar.

1828, OCT. 7] (Minutes of the Debating Society:) Wm. Whiting, Jr., and Rufus Lawrence debated: "Has the invention of gunpowder been a benefit to mankind?" Constitution adopted.

1828, OCT. 15] (Minutes:) Rufus Lawrence and Josiah Gardner Davis appointed to draw up by-laws. Davis and Wm. Whiting, Jr., debated: "Have the crusades been a benefit to the Christian nations of Europe?"

1828, OCT. 22] (Minutes:) Club passed a few by-laws.

1828, OCT. 29] (Minutes:) Edward Josian Stearns and Wm. Whiting, Jr., debated: "Will this country always be free?"

1828, NOV. 5] (Minutes:) John Thoreau and Rufus Lawrence debated: "Are good novels preferable to good histories?"

1828, NOV. 12] (Minutes:) Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar and Gardner Davis debated: "Has Italy produced as great a man as Greece?" Rufus Bigelow Lawrence also spoke. Some cited Socrates; others, Cicero, Fabius and Cincinnatus.

1828, NOV. 19] (Minutes:) Club members were busy preparing for Academy examinations, which took place on Nov. 22. No meeting was planned for Nov. 26 because it fell during the Thanksgiving vacation when "most of the members would be out of town."

1828, NOV. 22] ("Order of Declamations" from the Allen papers. As usual, I simplify the punctuation and numbering system:)

1. Henry Vose--- Song of the Pilgrims Upham.
2. Nathaniel G. A. Parker-- The battle hymn of the Berlin Landstrum [sic] [Landsturm?]
3. Greek Dialogue. E. R. Hoar & R. B. Lawrence.
4. Dialogue. W. Whiting, E. T. Stearns. Earl of Warwick & King Edward. Shaksp[eare].
5. Rufus B. Lawrence-- Extract from Judge Story's Centennial Address.
6. Eben[r] R. Hoar-- Extract from the Legend of Montrose. W. Scott
7. Dialogue--Irish courtesy. R. Lawrence & J. Thoreau
8. Daniel Stedman [sic]-- Bunker Hill Battle. Pierpont
9. Dialogue--- Indigestion. J. G. Davis & R. B. Lawrence.
10. E. R. Hoar-- The isles of Greece--- Byron
11. J. G. Davis-- Extract from a Speech of Patrick Henry.
12. Dialogue. E. R. Hoar & E. J. Stearns. from the Vespers of Palermo. Mrs. Hemans
13. William Whiting---- Original
14. Edward J. Stearns---- Original

1828, DEC. early] David Henry Thoreau enrolled for the term beginning at this time and extending to Feb. 25, 1829. His name appears in the list of performers on the latter date.

1828, DEC.—FEB. (The curriculum for this term as given in the Allen papers:)

Italian---Grammar and Prose Italiane
French----Siecle de Louis XIV, par Voltaire, Chef-d'oeuvres de Moliere, Correcting exercises in French Grammar.
Latin-----Historia Sacra, Latin Reader, Caesar's Commentaries, Sallust, Virgil, Cicero, Horace, Latin Tutor, two classes.
Greek-----Euripides, Greek Testament

English Branches.

Colburn's Arithmetic, Worcester's Geography & Sketches, Whelpley's General History, Blair's Rhetoric, Hedge's Logic, Conversation[s] on Natural Philosophy, Do.....on Chemistry, Legendre's Geometry, Colburn's & Euler's Algebra, Enfield's Natural Philosophy, Reading & Spelling, English Grammar. Composition & Declamation.

1828, DEC. 10] (Minutes:) Wm. Mackay Prichard admitted a member of the Debating Society. Plan to invite several others.

1828, DEC. 23] (Minutes:) Jonathan Fay Barrett was admitted a member. Wm. Whiting, Jr., and Wm. Prichard debated: "Are the pleasures of hope as great as those of memory?"

1829, circa] (Henry Thoreau's theme on "The Seasons belongs at this time or, possibly, earlier. I reprint the little folder issued by Edwin B. Hill from his private press at Ysleta, Texas, ca. 1939:

THE SEASONS

Why do the seasons change? and why
Does Winter's stormy brow appear?
Is it the word of him on high,
Who rules the changing varied year.

There are four Seasons in a year, Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter, I will begin with Spring. Now we see the ice beginning to thaw, and the trees to bud. Now the Winter wears away, and the ground begins to look green with the new born grass. The birds which have lately been to more southern countries return again to cheer us with their morning song.

Next comes Summer. Now we see a beautiful sight. The trees and flowers are in bloom. Now is the pleasantest part of the year. Now the fruit begins to form on the trees, and all things look beutiful.

In Autumn we see the trees loaded with fruit. Now the farmers begin to lay in their Winter's store, and the markets abound with fruit. The trees are partly stripped of their leavs. The birds whith visited us in Spring are now retireing to warmer countries, as they know that Winter is coming.

Next comes Winter. Now we see the ground covered with snow, and the trees are bare. The cold is so imtense that the rivers and brooks are frozen.

There is nothing to be seen. We have no birds to cheer us with their morning song. We hear only the sound of the sleigh bells.

This early attempt at composition by Henry David Thoreau is printed by the permission of the late Alfred W. Hosmer, of Concord, Massachusetts, the owner of the original manuscript. It was written by Thoreau at a very early age, and is interesting, as all attempts of Genius are interesting, indicative, as most such efforts are, of the chrysalis to find its wings. In this case of Thoreau it is quite singular, and no less pleasing, to note his choice of subject as a boy was the same as so often engaged his pen in later years. The original has been faithfully followed in this reproduction.

1829, JAN. 2] (Minutes:) John Thoreau out of town. Wm. Whiting, Jr., and Rufus Livingston discussed: "Has France or England produced as great a man as Lafayette?"

1829, JAN. 9] (Minutes:) Josiah Gardner Davis and Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar discussed: "Do talents contribute more to advancement in life than riches?"

1829, JAN. 16] (Minutes:) Edward Henry White admitted a member. Daniel Baxter Steadman and Nathaniel George Parker discussed: "Which is the worst passion---envy or ambition?"

1829, JAN. 29] (Minutes:) Rufus Bigelow Lawrence and Josiah G. Davis debated: "Was the French Revolution a benefit to Europe?"

1829, FEB. 5] (Minutes:) Ebenezer R. Hoar and Daniel Steadman debated: "Was Caesar justly slain?"

1829, FEB. 13] (Minutes:) The Society met, but there was no debate. All members were preparing for the Academy examination to be held on February 25.

1829, FEB. 25] (List of performances among the Allen papers. Thoreau makes his appearance.)

Nathaniel George Augustus Parker. The Bended Bow. Mrs. Hemans
Henry Vose. Extract from Botta's American Revolution
David Henry Thoreau. The Death of Leonidas. Croly
[One of the auditors penciled "Good" after this entry.]
Daniel Baxter Stedman. Speech of Henry V to his soldiers. Shaksp[eare].
Josiah Gardner Davis. The Chevalier D'Assas. Mrs. Hemans.
Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar. Raising of Lazarus. Anonymous.
William Mackay Prichard. Marco Bozzaris. Athenaeum.
G. Parker & J. G. Davis. The Farmer & his Pig. Anonymous.
Wm. Whiting & E. R. Hoar. Italian Dialogue.
Wm. Prichard & J. G. Davis. Toleration--Nathan & the Inquisitor. Anon.
G. Parker. The soldier's Return. Anonymous.
Henry Vose. David returning from the conquest of Goliah. Anon.
Wm. Whiting. The isles of Greece. Byron.
J. G. Davis & E. R. Hoar. Death of Samson. Milton.
H. Vose & D. B. Stedman. Orlando & Jaques. Shakspeare.
E. R. Hoar. Impeachment of Warren Hastings. Burke.
Wm. M. Prichard. Extract from an Eulogy on Adams. Webster.
J. G. Davis. Republican Governments. Original.
Wm. Whiting. Switzerland. Original.

1829, MARCH 6] (Minutes:) First meeting of the Debating Society for the new term. Election of officers. Wm. Whiting, Jr., and Wm. Prichard were appointed disputants at the next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, March 12. The subject appointed was: "Do children imbibe and imitate virtue as readily as vice?"

1829, MARCH 12] If the Debating Society held its scheduled meeting, no minutes of it survive. The records do not resume until October, by which time Henry Thoreau, Edward Henry White and Benjamin F. Whyte were enrolled as members.

1829, SPRING] No records of Thoreau's activities in the Academy survive for the second quarter. Allen's lists are missing.

1829, JUNE 1] Thoreau was enrolled for the summer quarter. George Moore, son of Abel Moore, joined the student body. From this point onward, I

shall quote short passages from his Diary, in which he wrote, under this date: "To day commenced at Mr Allen's School. Began to study Virgil at the 6th Aeneid-- Also, to review the G. Greek Grammar—"

1829, JUNE 1] (The curriculum is listed on a sheet in the Allen papers: "Studies pursued during the quarter ending Aug. 22d. 1829.")

French----Historie de Charles XII, Paul et Virginie, Dialogues des Morts. Chef d'oeuvres de Molière, Entretiens de Phocion
Latin-----Historiae Sacrae, Viri Romae, Virgil, Sallust, Cicero's Select Orations, Cicero de Officiis, Livy.
Greek-----Delectus, Greek Reader, Homer's Iliad, Xenophon's Anabasis.

English Branches

Colburn's Arithmetic, Worcester's Geography and Sketches, Blair's Rhetoric, Blake's Natural Philosophy, Wilkins' Astronomy, Conversations on Chemistry, Smellie's Philosophy of Natural History, Legendre's Geometry, Butler's Analogy, Botany, Reading and Spelling, Composition and Declamation.

1829, JUNE 15] (Diary:)"Commenced the Greek Reader."

1829, AUG. 21] (Diary:) "Examination at the Academy. P. Allen Instructor. A large number of spectators present, perhaps 60 or 70. A Valedictory was delivered by William Whiting Jr. which caused some tears to flow. Something peculiar in respect to the Proprietors, Committee, or whatever they style themselves; when the exercises were finished they took their hats and marched off, and never said a syllable concerning the school or Instructor. I say this is something peculiar, because it has always been customary to say something. This term, I have read five books in Virgil. (6th 7. 8. 9. & 10th Aeneids) and 66 pages in Jacob's Greek Reader. Reviewed the Greek Grammar and been about half through Lacroix's Arithmetic."

1829, AUG. 22] (Order of declamations from the papers of Phineas Allen:)

John Keyes. American History. Anonymous.
Henry Thoreau. Lines written in 1821 on hearing that the Austrians had entered Naples, with scarcely a show of resistance on the part of the Neapolitans, who had declared their Independence & pledged themselves to maintain it. Moore.
George Fiske. Speech in reply to Mr. Corry. Grattan
A dialogue: William Baker & George Howe. It is said that when Wm. Penn was about to set sail for Pennsylvania, he went to take leave of the king, & this conversation took place.
William Prichard, George Fiske, & E. R. Hoar. The Sick in his own despite, A dialogue. Anonymous.
George Moore. Extract from a speech in the House of Representatives at Washington, on presenting a resolution to defray the expense of a commissioner to Greece. Webster.
Wm. M. Prichard. Extract from an Oration delivered before the ΦΒΚ Society at Cambridge. E. Everett.
Wm. Whiting. Valedictory. Wm. Whiting.

1829, AUG. 29] (Diary:) "To day, my vacation ends. For the past week I have employed most of my time in writing and reading. On Monday next the Autumn term of Mr. Allen's school commences, and I shall then 'lay my bones' to the task that is before me with good earnest, I hope."

1829, AUG. 31] (Diary:) "Commenced my second term to Mr. Allen to day. Began in Latin——the XI Aeneid. In Greek Reader, page 67——also reviewing Greek Grammar." [The autumn quarter began on this day.]

1829, SEPT. 12] (Diary:) "Have been engaged for four days past, as clerk at an auction of Tallmon Seely's goods of Woburn, and in delivering them out— And now I must look forward to Court week, and prepare myself, or rather the Gaol papers and concerns for the court. Five prisoners in Gaol for trial." [George Moore's father was jailor, auctioneer and farmer.]

1829, SEPT. 19] (Diary:) "Another week has passed, and I have not attended school but barely to recite two lessons. Am heartily rejoiced that Court week is over, and shall be more so when Cattle-show, and Muster, so called, are past, as I have arrived at that age, now, which compels me to go into the Military line or—hand over. After these are past I hope I shall be able to "sit down under my own vine and fig tree," quietly, to my studies."

1829, SEPT. 24] (Minutes:) George Moore chosen secretary of the Debating Society. He and Ebenezer R. Hoar were chosen to make by-laws and report. They then debated: "Was Caesar unjustly slain?" A part of the members declaimed or recited. The minute book provides evidence that Thoreau, by this date, was a member. On September 24, he was 12 years, 2 months and 12 days old.

1829, SEPT. 26] (Diary:) "For the past week have been to school most of the time and have been pretty busily occupied. On Wednesday evening, attended a lecture delivered before the Lyceum.... Thursday evening, attended the Concord A. D. Society, when and where, I had the honor to be chosen Secretary—— an office not in the least desirable to me.... And, today, the town met for the purpose of considering the necessity of chosing [sic] a colleague for Dr. Ripley--accordingly, a committee of seven was chosen to hire candidates. The Concord Lt. Infantry trained all day--and in the afternoon had excellent music."

1829, OCT. 2] (Minutes:) A new by-law passed by the Debating Society: "That every member absenting himself [from meetings] without a reasonable excuse, shall light up the room for the two following meetings." E. R. Hoar and George Moore were appointed a committee to purchase five lamps. After declamations from members, Isaac Fiske and Benjamin F. White discussed: "Was Demosthenes a greater man than Cicero?"

1829, OCT. 3] (Diary:) "Attended school constantly the past week— Thursday evening, attended a meeting of the Sab. School teachers. Friday evening, attended the Debating Club, at the Academy.... Next week will be a week of Holidays, as there will be a Review alias Muster on Tuesday and Cattle-show, on Wednesday, so that I shall not probably make so much progress in my studies as common. I was warned to appear "armed & equipped" today, in order to train in the Militia, but paid no attention to my warrant,

and shall let them take their own course,now."

1829, OCT. 4] (Diary:) "Rev^{d} Ralph W. Emerson of Boston preached two excellent sermons. He married a lady from Concord N. H. this last week, and is now on his way home. His wife being sick and unable to travel very fast, and the weather being unpleasant, they remained in town to day."

1829, OCT. 6] (Diary:) "Attended the Review at Acton. There were present nine companies, besides the "Weston Independent Lt. Infantry" who chose not to join the others. The Review was rather small, there being, I should think, not more than three hundred. Spectators were more numerous than soldiers. Rode up in the forenoon, but at night walked home. This Regiment, being the 3rd, is now commanded by Col. Chandler of Lexington...."

1829, OCT. 7] (Diary:) "Another holiday [the cattle show] has come and I hope the last, for the present, as it is impossible for a student to accomplish much at such times.... There is a ball this evening, now in operation, at Middlesex Hotel, to which I was strongly invited to attend, but for the good of myself, as to body and mind, and after the fatigue of standing around for two days in succession, I think it best to stay at home...."

1829, OCT. 9] (Diary:) "Finished the last book of the Aeneid in Virgil. Shall leave the Georgics at present and take Cicero. I am heartily glad that I have finished what I have been so long hammering upon, so that I can, now, take something new. This evening attended a meeting of the Academical Debating club."

1829, OCT. 9] (Minutes:) After declamations from all the members, twelve-year-old Henry Thoreau (affirmative) and E. R. Hoar (negative) debated: "Does it require more talents to make a good writer than a good extemporaneous speaker?" "The debate was not very animated...on account of some misunderstanding in the question. The President decided in the Negative, and...his decision was confirmed by a majority of four."

1829, OCT. 10] (Diary:) "Behold a day of great excitement to the harmonious people of Concord has arrived. The Concord Artillery and Lt. Infantry are both in full bloom, each with a band of music from Boston, and such music as never before greeted the ears of the citizens of this town of Concord. These companies have long been rivals...."

1829, OCT. 13] (Diary:) "Commenced the study of Cicero and Roman Antiquities. Find it rather tough digging in Cicero."

1829, OCT. 15] (Minutes:) Declamations from all members as usual. George Moore and Wm. Baker discussed: "Is the Militia System, as at present conducted, beneficial to the community?" E. R. Hoar also spoke on the subject.

1829, OCT. 15] (Diary:) "Attended the debating club at the academy, when and where, I had the honor of being a disputant.... I spoke on the affirmative, and, therefore, against my own opinion and views."

1829, OCT. 18] (Diary:) "Rev. Samuel Ripley of Waltham preached, his father [Dr. Ezra Ripley] being unable, and, having been sick with the Gout for the past week, so that he has not left his house. I called to see him yesterday, and he looked very feeble, more so than I ever saw him before...."

1829, OCT. 22] (Minutes:) Declamations from all members as usual. Isaac Fiske and J. G. Davis discussed: "Is it desirable that the Emperor Nicolas should drive the Turks from Europe?" E. R. Hoar and George Moore also spoke on the question.

1829, OCT. 22] (Diary:) "Met with the Debating Club, and heard a pretty warm discussion...."

1829, OCT. 29] (Minutes:) Declamations from all members. B. F. White and E. R. Hoar discussed: "Which is the greatest invention——the art of printing or the mariner's compass?" Other participants included J. G. Davis and George Moore.

1829, OCT. 31] (Diary:) "Another week has past, never to return, & I might say, another month, as it seems but a short time since October took the place of September.... Now, let me ask myself what I have been about for the past month? Have I employed my time, as I ought, or have I wasted a great part of it?... I have attended school, every day, I have got my lessons, and have progressed in my studies, I have attended to my occupations at home and have performed them, but still I have not done one half as much as I might have done.... For the future let thy resolution be, I will improve my time and talents to the best advantage, and let thy motto be improvement.... O! Let me, for the future, live the life of a christian, a life of happiness, so that when my summons may come, I may welcome it with joy, and be able to say "Oh! death where is thy Sting? Oh! Grave where is thy victory?"

1829, NOV. 5] (Minutes:) Part of the members recited pieces. Edward Wright (affirmative) and Henry Thoreau (negative) were called to discuss: "Is a good memory preferable to a good understanding in order to be a distinguished scholar at school?" "The affirmative disputant through negligence, had prepared nothing for debate, and the negative not much more. Accordingly, no other member speaking, the President decided in the Neg. His decision was confirmed by a majority of four. Such a debate, if it may be called so, as we have had, this evening, I hope never again will be witnessed in this house, or recorded in this book. It is not only a waste of time, but of paper to record such proceedings, of wood and oil." [Signed by George Moore, secretary.]

1829, NOV. 5] (Diary:) "Attended the meeting of the club at the Academy, but not a very pleasant one, as the regular disputants had not prepared themselves to speak."

1829, NOV. 11] (Diary:) "Attended a lecture delivered at the Court house before the Lyceum, by Doct. Ripley. His subject was the influence of habit, and such an amusing and interesting lecture, I have not attended before since the formation of this institution...."

1829, NOV. 12] (Minutes:) The President (Phineas Allen) being absent, George Moore, the Secretary, called the meeting to order. Some members declaimed. George Moore and Wm. Baker, assisted by J. G. Davis, debated: "Do people generally improve well one half of their time?" "Much disturbance was manifested on the part of some members and the meeting was conducted like a ship in a storm having lost her rudder, although the President pro. tem. did all in his power to preserve order." (Was Henry Thoreau one of the troublemakers?)

1829, NOV. 12] (Diary:) "Attended as a regular disputant the club at the academy.... I spake in the aff. much against my own opinion."

1829, NOV. 16] (Diary:) "Today, the Academy did not keep, on account of a meeting of a number of Delegates of the different towns in the County for the purpose of forming a County Lyceum. An address was delivered on the occasion at the Meeting-house by the Hon. Edward Everett, very well adapted to the occasion, and very eloquent, as usual. A society was formed, and Mr. Everett chosen President. They are to meet semi-annually, and their next meeting is to be at Concord in May next...."

1829, NOV. 18] (Diary:) "Mr. [Phineas] Allen lectured this evening before the Lyceum, on Natural Philosophy. He intends to deliver a course, and, consequently, this was an introductory lecture."

1829, NOV. 19] (Minutes:) The members declaimed. Charles Bowers attended for the first time. Voted no meeting for next week because of Thanksgiving and the academy vacation. Isaac Fiske and Edward Wright debated: "Has intemperance been productive of so much evil in the world as slavery?" Others who spoke on the question were J. G. Davis, George Moore and E. R. Hoar.

1829, NOV. 19] (Diary:) "This evening had a very good meeting of the Debating Society, and a pretty long discussion, upon the question 'Which is the greater evil to the world. Intemperance, or Slavery?'"

1829, NOV. 20] (Diary:) "The Autumn Term of the Academy closes today, and we have no examination. For the past term, I have read the 11th and 12th Aeneids in Virgil, and read and reviewed the four first orations in Cicero, 340 pp. in Roman Antiquities, about 90 pp. in the Greek Reader, and reviewed the Greek and a part of the Latin Grammars."

1829, NOV. 21] (Diary:) "Have been engaged, today, in writing for my father. Finished reading Arthur Clenning in 2 Vols. a very interesting narrative. Paid my tuition at Academy $5.00."

1829, NOV. 23] (Diary:) "Copied some mittimuses for Court and finished reading the Beatitudes. Wrote a letter to my old friend Geo. Fiske, now at Cambridge."

1829, NOV. 29] (Diary:) "Have been engaged today in distributing billets for a party, running of errands &c. In the evening, had a small party of only 45. All things seemed to go on in order, and all concerned appeared to enjoy themselves, and I sincerely hope they did." [Were the Thoreau brothers invited?]

1829, NOV. 29] (Diary:) "My school commences again, tomorrow, and then I must put aside every thing but my studies, and attend to them exclusively."

1829, NOV. 30] The winter quarter began. See Yeoman's Gazette, Nov. 21, 1829.

1829, NOV. 30] (Diary:) "Staid in Mr. Keyes' office, as he went to Lexington upon business, therefore I did not attend school."

1829, DEC. 1] (Diary:) "Commenced at school at Mr. Allen's— my 3d term. I am sorry to say that Mr Allen has the small number of twelve scholars, but so it is. Commenced the 5th oration in Cicero, and at the 154 p. of Greek Reader...."

1829, DEC. 8] (Diary:) "Wrote a letter to Mr. Horatio Wood [my former instructor], and one to my brother. Yesterday, I made a new arrangement of my time in regard to studying &c. which is as follows— Rise in the morning at 4 o'clock, and study till school time. Devote my evenings to reading and writing till 9 o'clock, then retire."

1829, DEC. 9] (Diary:) "Heard a lecture at the Lyceum hall, from Mr. Allen, on Philosophy (Nat.), and a debate upon the question "Is it probable that our Republican form of government will continue for any great length of time?" [See under Oct. 29, 1828.]

1829, DEC. 10] (Minutes:) First meeting of the new term. Members declaimed as usual. George Moore was reelected Secretary. He and Charles Bowers discussed the question: "Ought the poor to be supported by law?" E. R. Hoar participated.

1829, DEC. 10] (Diary:) "Debating club met at the Academy, when and where, I was re-elected to the office of Secretary, which I accepted. Spouted as a regular disputant, upon the question 'Ought the poor to be supported by law?'"

1829, DEC. 12] (Diary:) "For the past week, have enforced my resolution, about rising in the morning, excepting two mornings, when I did not wake. But I find when I do enforce this rule, I can accomplish about one fourth more in a day than I have heretofore done, & certainly I feel better during the whole day...."

1829, DEC. 14] (Diary:) "Rose in the morning at 4 o'clock and studied a lesson in Cicero...."

1829, DEC. 15] (Diary:) "As I made a new arrangement, a week since, in regard to my time, today, I shall make another, which is, during the Winter term, to ¶ Remain at school during the Intermission at noon, & eat— no dinner."

1829, DEC. 17] (Minutes:) "The Secretary being absent, Henry Thoreau was chosen Sec. pro. tem. and he neglecting to perform his duty by recording the proceedings, it falls to the lot of the Sec. to re-

cord, by hearsay, what was done. The Society came together at the usual time, and the question selected last evening, 'Do children imitate, imbibe or adopt virtues as soon as vices?' was taken up by the disputants, and left to be discussed again and decided at some future time." [See under Mar. 6, 1829.]

1829, DEC. 18] (Diary:) "Went to another party at Mr. Prichard's. It was a party of 'old folks,' pretty much. Got some acquainted with a Mr. Pierce, one of the schoolmasters."

1829, DEC. 23] (Diary:) "Mr. Allen lectured before the Lyceum. After the lecture, called at Col. Whitings, and saw my friend William, and received from him a letter from another friend at Cambridge, F. Parker."

1829, DEC. 24] (Minutes:) After declamations, Edward Wright (affirmative) and Henry Thoreau (negative) with E. R. Hoar supporting Wright and J. G. Davis + George Moore supporting Thoreau, debated: "Ought lotteries to be granted for any use?" The debate was rather long, and the negative won. An honorary member, Wm. Whiting, Jr., on Christmas vacation from Harvard, attended this session.

1829, DEC. 24] (Diary:) "Club met at the Academy and went through the usual exercises. Yesterday, I remained at home from school, for the first time, on account of sickness, since I commenced last Summer. Today, commenced Euler's Algebra."

1829, DEC. 31] (Minutes:) Some declaimed. Geo. Moore and Charles Bowers debated: "Which would be the greatest loss to the literary community, that of all the historical or philosophical writings?" Wm. Whiting, Jr., spoke on the negative; E. R. Hoar, on the affirmative, but "gave up the ship." Wm. M. Prichard, a former member, was present and declaimed.

1829, DEC. 31] (Diary:) "Declaimed before the debating society and was a regular disputant...."

1830, JAN. 1] (Diary:) "In the evening went to a meeting of the Sunday School teachers at Mr. Allens."

1830, JAN. 7] (Minutes:) After the declamations, the Society voted to readmit Benjamin F. Whyte notwithstanding the fact that "his father wished him to be excused from declamation." Edward Wright and Wm. Mackay Prichard debated: "Are dancing schools beneficial?" J. G. Davis, George Moore and E. R. Hoar contributed. "The debate was pretty long and interesting. But in one thing some of the members violated the laws, which was, in using personalities." Andrew Fiske was admitted as a member.

1830, JAN. 14] (Minutes:) Declamations as usual. Charles Bowers chosen secretary pro tem. Voted "that a Lamp-lighter be appointed by the President to act for three successive evenings." J. G. Davis and E. R. Hoar debated: "Would it be expedient that all North America should be vested in one republican government?"

1830, JAN. 15] (Diary:) "Commenced reading Plutarch's Lives."

1830, JAN. 20] (Diary:) "Col. D. Shattuck lectured, upon the rivers of the Western States. There was a discussion of the question 'Ought the poor to be supported by law?' The debate was pretty interesting, and decided by the President in the Neg." [See under Dec. 10, 1829.]

1830, JAN. 21] (Minutes:) Members declaimed. Andrew Fiske and J. G. Davis "in the room of Henry Thoreau" debated: "Ought the custom of wearing mourning for deceased friends to be discontinued?" Charles Bowers, Edward Wright, George Moore and Wm. M. Prichard contributed.

1830, JAN. 22] (Diary:) "Finished Cicero's Orations after a seige of about three months, having in the time reviewed them as I progressed."

1830, JAN. 25] (Diary:) "Commenced Sallust. In the evening, a number of young gentlemen, and among the rest myself, met at the Academy, for the purpose of forming a Debating & Declaiming Society. We agreed to call it 'The young men's Society for mutual improvement.' I sincerely hope that we shall succeed, and think that we undoubtedly, shall, if we only give our attention to it, and persevere."

1830, JAN. 26] (Diary:) "Have been reading the Lives of Themistocles, Plutarch, Theseus & Romulus. Commenced the life of Cimon."

1830, JAN. 27] (Diary:) "Finished the Life of Cimon...."

1830, JAN. 28] (Minutes:) Members declaimed as usual. "Another club [see under Jan. 25 supra] being about to be formed and most of the members of this society being about to join it, it was Voted to discontinue our meetings for the present, to place the money remaining in the treasury, & all property belonging to the society in the hands of the President [Phineas Allen]——and that the President be authorised to call a meeting of the club whenever he shall think proper. Also——That the thanks of this society be presented to our President for his attendance at our meetings, & supplying us with wood." George Moore and E. R. Hoar debated: "Ought imprisonment for debt to be abolished?" J. G. Davis and W. M. Prichard contributed. Adjourned sine die. [It is highly probable that Henry Thoreau joined the new society, the records of which are not extant.]

1830, JAN. 30] (Diary:) "Reviewed what I have read in Sall[ust] being 20. Sections. At 11 o'clock, a committee, consisting of three, ourself included, met with me, for the purpose of forming a Constitution and making regulations for a club. Worked till 4 P.M. when we had concluded our business, and hope it will be acceptable...."

1830, FEB. 1] (Diary:) "Read 4 Sec. in Sallust .... Read only 18 lines in Greek. Attended club-meeting, and was chosen Secretary, an office not very desirable to me, but it was accepted with pleasure, as I would do every thing in my power to help along the Society...."

1830, FEB. 2] (Diary:) "Read 6 sec. in Sall[ust] .... Read 52 lines in Greek. Commenced the life of

Lucullus."

1830, FEB. 3] (Diary:) "Read but one sec. in Sall[ust].... Finished the life of Lucullus, and Cimon & Lucullus compared. Charles Emerson of Cambridge lectured before the Lyceum. His lecture was interesting and useful (if applied)...."

1830, FEB. 5] (Diary:) "Read 3 sec. in Sall. Commenced the life of Alcibiades. Read 45 lines in Greek."

1830, FEB. 6] (Diary:) "Reviewed my week's work in Sallust, being only 17 sec. as I have staid at home two days and have had considerable writing to do. This week have read only 115 lines in Greek...."

1830, FEB. 11] (Diary:) "Read 1 sec. (4 pp.) in Sall. and 48 lines in Greek.... Finished the life of Alcibiades."

1830, FEB. 13] (Diary:) "Reviewed 24 sec. in Sall. (my week's work.) Read this week 152 lines in Greek .... Studied upon a Dialogue & Declamation."

1830, FEB. 15] (Diary:) "Studied a little in Sallust. Wrote all day a part of the time upon the records of the young men's society. Did not attend school. In the evening attended the club, and took part in the discussion of the following question, 'Are theatres, in general, a benefit to the community?' Declaimed, also."

1830, FEB. 16] (Diary:) "Read 4 sec. in Sallust. Recited a Latin Grammar lesson at school. Studied upon pieces to declaim...."

1830, FEB. 18] (Diary:) "Went to school and recited lessons. Studied upon my declamations for examination which is at hand. In the evening, attended at the academy in company with the other scholars and spoke my pieces...."

1830, FEB. 22] (Diary:) "In the evening, attended the club, and was regular disputant. Had an invite to attend an Exhibition Ball of Monsieur Radoux's dancing school, this evening, but did not attend. As to dancing I have nothing against it, but my reasons ...."

1830, FEB. 23] (Diary:) "Went to the academy in order to rehearse my piece together with the other scholars, for examination."

1830, FEB. 24] (Diary:) "Reviewed Algebra to recite at examination. Attended Lyceum, but no lecturer appearing, Dea. Hosmer...made some remarks... upon the geography of the Middle States...."

1830, after FEB. 21] (The following is a theme by Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar, found among the Allen papers. He was born Feb. 21, 1816. See Edward Waldo Emerson, "Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar," Memoirs of...the Social Circle, IV, 10-11: "When Rockwood Hoar was one of the upper-class boys in the Academy, the master said to him, 'That word is incorrectly spelled. It should be thus'--giving his version. 'Where do you find authority for that spelling?' said the boy, the man of precedents in after years. The master named the authority. 'He's of less importance than the others who spell it as I did.' 'Well, you can spell it as I say on my authority,' said the master. 'The least of all!' observed the saucy boy.")

Knowledge is power.

That this is true, no one, who would reflect for a moment upon the subject, could doubt. In every civilized country, high rank, or valour, or noble birth, are not considered as a compensation for the want of high intellectual endowments. To whatever point we turn our attention, the same scene presents itself to our view. But it is our own country of which it can be peculiarly said, that in it knowledge is power. In this favoured land of freedom, there are no hereditary honours, to give one man a "proud prominence" above his fellows; no privileged orders of nobility, to rule over others, solely because their fathers have done so before them. Instead of these, there is, if we may use the term, an intellectual aristocracy, to which any one by patient & persevering endeavours, may obtain admittance. From this order are supplied all offices of power & trust, & honour. What renders our motto peculiarly true in this country, is this, that no other qualification is necessary for any station whatever, but mental strength & superiority. If a person presents himself as a candidate for office, we do not ask, 'Is this man rich? 'Does he follow this or that occupation?' But we ask, 'Is he a man of strong mind, & intellectual superiority, who will be an honour to himself, & to his country?' There is another kind of power which is to be obtained by knowledge, which is confined to no particular age nor country; which pervades the earth, & will descend to the remotest posterity, exerting a never-ceasing influence over the minds & opinions of men. It is this which Newton and Fenelon still hold, by their writings and example, although they themselves have long since passed away.

Physical power, also, is evidently to be acquired by knowledge. As mankind become generally more enlightened, their power over the natural world is proportionally increased. This will appear more clearly, if we compare the present resourses of our country with those which she possessed a hundred years ago. We shall see the great advantages that have arisen from the labours of our own learned men, & those of other countries. The steam-engine is a noble example of this; of which it has been said by an elegant British writer, that "It has armed the feeble hand of man, with a power to which no limits can be assigned." Thus we see, that every kind of power, both physical & moral is to be acquired by knowledge; and therefore we would recommend to all who have no other motive than this for the acquisition of it, to endeavour to "get wisdom, & with all their gettings to get understanding."

Signed, Ebenr R. Hoar, Æt.14.

1830, FEB. 25] (The following "Order of Examination" appears among the Allen papers:)

French-----Exercises in the Grammar
Latin------Cicero's Orations, Sallust, Virgil, Viri Romae, Horace, Latin Tutor, Historiae Sacrae, Latin Grammar.
Greek------Greek Reader, Homer's Odyssey, Graeca Majora.

English Branches
Worcester's Geography, Euler's Algebra, Legendre's Geometry, Lacroix's Algebra, Reading and Spelling, Composition and Declamation.

1830, FEB. 25] ("Order of Declamation" among the Allen papers:)

David Henry Thoreau. Extract from an oration delivered at Plymouth, Mass., Dec. 22d 1824. E. Everett
John Shepard Keyes. The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers. Mrs. Hemans
Edward Sherman Hoar. New England. J. G. Percival
Edward William Wright. Speech of Catiline before the Roman Senate, on hearing sentence of banishment. Croly's Catiline
Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar. Belshazzar's Doom. Croly
George Moore. Bullum versus Boatum
D. H. Thoreau & E. W. Wright. Dialogue between Charles II & Wm. Penn
William M. Prichard & G. Moore. Gustavus Vasa & Christiern
Josiah Gardner Davis & Andrew Fiske. The Revolutionary Pensioner——Dialogue between Capt. Hardy & Nathan
John S. Keyes. The Better Land. Mrs. Hemans.
J. G. Davis & Geo. Moore. The English Traveller. Dialogue by W. B. Fowler.
Andrew Fiske. Extract from an oration delivered at Plymouth, Mass. Dec. 22d 1824. E. Everett.
J. G. Davis. Extract from a Legend of Montrose. Walter Scott.
E. R. Hoar. Claim of the Pilgrims to the reverence & gratitude of their Descendants. O. Dewey.
William McKay Prichard. Character of the Puritans. M'cAulay
George Moore. Extract from a speech of Mr Everett at a public dinner given him at Nashville, Ten.

1830, FEB 25] (Diary:) "Examination. The day has come, when again I am to appear, together with the rest of our school, after a lapse of six months, to be examined. Went to school at 8 1/2 o'clock. The examination did not commence till about 1/2 past 9. ¶ The languages took up most of the forenoon. We had but thirteen scholars present, although our examination continued pretty long. For my part, I recited in Cicero, Sallust, Greek Reader & Euler's Algebra. I declaimed two single pieces, and took part in two dialogues. There were present between thirty and forty spectators. We continued in school till half past one, when our term closed, having kept 12 1/2 weeks. As to my work for the last term, I have done what I could, with many hindrances and obstructions which daily threw themselves into my way. In Latin—I have finished Cicero, commencing at the 5th Oration — gone through and reviewed the first part of Sallust 'Sallustii Catilina'—and the Latin Grammar. In Greek—I have read but little, not having paid much attention to it, only 52 pp. In Algebra—I have gone about 90 pp. nearly half through."

1830, MAR. 1] (Diary:) "Wrote during the day. In the evening attended club meeting, when and where the following question was discussed, 'Would it be well for a person preparing for the common business of life, to devote a part of his time to the study of the languages?' Had a new member at the club (Patch)...."

1830, MAR. 2] (Diary:) "Mr. Allen's school commenced, to day, but, on account of a great lot of writing of my father's, I shall not be able to attend any, this week...."

1830, MAR. 9] (Diary:) "In the evening wrote for the clerk until ten o'clock. Was invited out to a party, this evening, at Mr. Thoreau's, but did not attend."

1830, MAR. 10] (Diary:) "I attended the Lyceum. Dr. Ripley gave a very interesting and amusing lecture upon Economy...."

1830, MAR. 11] (Diary:) "Attended court in the morning and heard a very interesting case tried—— concerning the stealing of some books from the Library of Harvard Col. by the Janniter or assistant to the Librarian. The fellow said that he bought the books from some students, but his story not being very consistent, he was convicted and sentenced to two months imprisonment in the County Gaol...."

1830, MAR. 13] (Diary:) "Paid Mr. Allen my tuition at the Academy, last term, $5.00—"

1830, MAR. 15] (Diary:) "Commenced school again to Mr. Allen on my 4th Quarter. Began at the 207 P. of the Greek Reader, and shall attend to that entirely until I have finished it. Attended Debating club, where, my term of office having expired as Sec. I made a report of my proceedings &c. Was fined 12 1/2 cents for absence last meeting. The fine, I thought, was unjust, but I yeilded [sic] to the majority of the club. Was Reg. Disputant upon the question 'Is the cause of general Literature advanced by the animosities of the English and American Writers, against each other?'"

1830, MAR. 16] (Diary:) "Read the life of Phocion, one of the most distinguished characters among the Greeks, and a great Orator. Remarkable for his laconic expressions...."

1830, MAR. 17] (Diary:) "Read the life of Demosthenes, probably the greatest orator that the world ever produced. In reading his life, it is astonishing to see how many obstacles he had to overcome, and with how much resolution and perseverance he encountered and conquered them. In the evening attended the Lyceum, and heard a lecture from Mr. Ball...upon Natural History, with representations from the Phantasmagoria Lantern...."

1830, MAR. 18] (Diary:) "Commenced the poetry in the Greek Reader. Found it very hard at first."

1830, MAR. 22] (Diary:) "A delightful day! the finest we have had this spring.... In the evening, attended the Debating club, when and where, I had the honor of filling the presidential chair. Three new members were admitted. Our prospects, at present, I think, are very good, as we have a dozen members or more. Discussed the question, 'Ought Representatives to be bound by the will of their constituents?' and we decided it in the Neg.

1830, MAR. 26] (Diary:) "Finished the Greek Reader, after having been hammering upon it, more or less, for ten months, almost...."

1830, MAR. 26] (Diary:) "Commenced the second part of Sallust, (Jugurthine War) and shall pursue that to the exclusion of all other studies, until I have finished it...."

1830, MAR. 27] (Diary:) "For the past week have read 16 pp. in the Greek Reader, and 12 pp. in Sallust...."

1830, MAR. 29] (Diary:) "Read 8 1/2 pp. in Sallust, and am going to try hard to finish it this week, there being 74 pp. Evening— Attended club meeting—had a very good discussion upon 'Would the completion of Bunker Hill Monument by the Ladies reflect honour upon New England?' It seems to me that the Ladies are taking too much power into their hands, even to attempt such a stupendous work.... It looks immodest. It would seem that the Ladies wished to 'wear the breeches'——and let them do it in this case and they will soon wish to take other work from the hands of the men, erelong, perhaps, to grace the halls of Legislation in our country, and ascend the seats of Justice."

1830, APR. 5] (Diary:) "Read 5 1/2 pp. in Sallust. Did not get a lesson in the afternoon, on account of it's being town-meeting. Read some in the Juvenile Miscellanies. Evening—attended club—declaimed, not well, because I had not my piece well committed. Discussed 'Ought Capital Punishment to be abolished by the U. S.?' Took a walk, this morning, before breakfast, and intend to do so for the future.... Moreover what pleasure it affords, to walk abroad and view the buties [sic] of nature, and hear the song of the thousand little warblers, who, at this time, are all life and activity.... Their notes...would inspire love and make one 'look through Nature up to Nature's God.'"

1830, APR. 12] (Diary:) "Commenced the Georgics in Virgil. Attended club. The discussion was upon the question 'Does the state of poverty or affluence present the greater temptation to commit crime?'"

1830, APR. 15] (Diary:) "This morning, my father and brother went, the former to Plymouth, the latter to Salem, after prisoners to have their trial, this week, and left me to take care of the gaol containing a large number of prisoners while they are gone (2 days). I, therefore, shall give up all study this week, but it is with great reluctance. Was very busily engaged in locking and unlocking the prison doors during the day...."

1830, APR. 18] (Diary:) "Rev. R. W. Emerson, from Boston preached. In the morning, his text was in Titus C.II. v.12. 'We should live soberly, righteously, and godly.' afternoon." [Space left, but never filled.]

1830, APR. 19] (Diary:) "Recited a lesson in Virgil. In the afternoon, the Uniform companies of the town came out, armed and equipped, to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Concord Fight. Both companies marched together to the battle-ground, where Dr. Ripley made a very interesting and appropriate prayer .... Evening--attended Debating club, and was Reg. Disputant upon the question 'Ought foreigners to be admitted to the rights of citizenship in our country?' Supported the aff."

1830, APR. 22] (Diary:) "Finished the first Georgic in Virgil and commenced the second yesterday. Today my brother (Henry) took his departure for Cambridge, to join the Law School, having already studied two years in Boston."

1830, APR. 26] (Diary:) "Read over 200 lines in the third Georgic, which I commenced, today. Evening--attended Debating Club and spouted upon the question 'Has the discovery of the Art of Printing been of greater benefit to the world, than that of the Mariner's Compass?' Declaimed also." [See under Oct. 29, 1829.]

1830, APR. 30] (Diary:) "Read one lesson in Virgil, nearly 300 lines, which finishes the Georgics. I have now read all the latin required at College. Afternoon—commenced Euler's Algebra, again. Read about 30 pp."

1830, MAY 3] (Diary:) "Walked early.... Did not recite any lessons, today, because Mr. Allen, my Instructor lost his child, a babe, about two or three months old. Evening—attended the club. Question 'Has the discovery of America been an advantage to the old World?' Spouted and declaimed.

1830, MAY 4] (Diary:) "Wrote a letter to Frederick Parker. To-day, at one o'clock, I was called out to train in the company long known by the name of 'Old Shad.' This was my first appearance as a soldier. I went 'armed & equipped' and passed muster very well, and, what was still more, was put in sergeant for the day. What an honour! Sergeant of the 'Old Shad'! ... This day makes me nineteen years of age.

1830, MAY 10] (Diary:) "Commenced to review the Greek Reader. Recited a lesson in Algebra. Evening —went to Debating club. Took part in a dialogue—— and spouted upon the question, 'Would it be good policy in the United States to establish a Naval Academy?' Bought a Greek Lexicon for $5.25.

1830, MAY 12] (Diary:) "Read some in Mason's Self-Knowledge. Read a few pages in Greek Reader, and Grammar. Studied a lesson in Algebra...."

1830, MAY 17] (Diary:) "Studied a lesson in Greek Reader & Grammer [sic]. Worked a little upon Algebra.... Evening—Club meeting. Took part in a dialogue. Question 'Is the cause of religion advanced by Sectarianism?' The discussion was longer than usual, and we were detained till near ten o'clock. All the members were present, being in number 15."

1830, MAY 20] (Diary:) "Read a lesson in Greek. Worked in Algebra in the afternoon. Bought four catalogues of the scholars &c. at the Academy for 12 1/2 cents. The number of scholars for the last term, ending this week, has been 36." [I have not been able to find a specimen of any of Allen's leaflet "Catalogues" except the issue of November, 1833, q.v. under date.]

1830, MAY 21] (Diary:) "Finished Algebra.... For

the past term at the Academy, have been absent, in all, about three weeks. My labour for said term is as follows— Read in Greek, from the 207 page to the end, of the Reader, being 41 pp. & reviewed 48 pp. in the same. Reviewed the Grammar. In Latin—read the Jugurthine war of Sallust, being 85pp. & the Georgics in Virgil. Dug through Euler's Algebra."

1830, MAY 24] (Diary:) "Evening--attended debating club. Declaimed, but did not speak upon our question 'Ought ardent spirits to be distributed in our Navy as a part of the daily rations?' Our discussion was not very good or interesting. Today--Paid Mr. Allen my tuition—"

1830, MAY 31] (Diary:) "Waited upon Mr. Graham as part of a committee to enquire into certain reports which he had spread concerning our club. Evening--Attended club. Spoke upon the question 'Is it necessary to have a standing army in this country?' Voted —that each member be allowed to invite in three friends."

1830, JUNE 1] (Diary:) "Commenced my studies again, to day. Began at the Fables in the Greek Reader to review. Read 13 pp."

1830, JUNE 2] (Diary:) "Read a few pp. in Greek Reader and a lesson in the Grammar. Commenced Cleveland's Greek Antiquities...."

1830, JUNE 4] (Diary:) "Read a lesson in the Reader and Antiquities. Read the paper. Studied some upon a dialogue. Evening--attended [Sunday School] teacher's meeting at Mr. Allen's...."

1830, JUNE 5] (Diary:) "Read a short lesson in the Reader. For the past week have reviewed 32 pp. in Greek Reader, 14 pp. in Grammar, and read 30 pp. in Antiquities...."

1830, JUNE 7] (Diary:) "Read 7 pp. in Greek Reader, and 12 pp. in Antiquities. Evening--club met. Discussed the question 'Is our Penitentiary System, (State prisons) beneficial to the community?' Was Reg. Disputant in the Neg. Declaimed."

1830, JUNE 9] (Diary:) "Read a few pages in Greek Reader, & Antiquities. Commenced reading Shakspeare."

1830, JUNE 21] (Diary:) "Commenced my studies again, to day, with a full determination to press onwards with my might. Read 4 dialogues in Greek, about 6 pp. Began to get a lesson in Antiquities in the afternoon but...."

1830, JUNE 22] (Diary:) "Read a lesson in Greek Reader, 5 pp. Read 22 pp. in Antiquities, & a few pages in Porter's Analysis...."

1830, JUNE 24] (Diary:) "Bought me a Cleveland's Grecian Antiquities."

1830, JUNE 25] (Diary:) "Read a short lesson in Greek & finished Greek Antiquities."

1830, JUNE 28] (Diary:) "Read 7 pp. in Greek. Commenced reviewing Cicero, and read four sections. Attended club meeting. Question, 'Is the present Anti-masonic excitement justifiable?'"

1830, JULY 1] (Diary:) "Read a lesson in Greek. Afternoon--read a lesson in Cicero, which finishes the first oration against Catiline."

1830, JULY 2] (Diary:) "Read and recited a short lesson in Cicero. We are now to have two holidays until next Tuesday, as Mr. Allen is going home."

1830, JULY 5] (Diary:) "Attended club and declaimed. As we had but few declamations and no discussion, we voted to select some question and discuss it without further notice, ergo, this question was selected 'Is it justifiable for young men to go a courting before they have arrived at the age of twenty one years?' Spouted upon this and took the aff."

1830, JULY 12] (Diary:) "Read a short lesson in Greek--and 5 sec. in Cicero. Attended club-meeting. The question was concerning the Working parties on the principles of the N. York 'Workies.' Spouted."

1830, JULY 14] (Diary:) "Read a lesson in Greek and Latin. Also, commenced the Latin Tutor and got a short lesson."

1830, JULY 19] (Diary:) "Read in Greek and in Cicero. Attended club-meeting, declaimed and took part in a dialogue."

1830, JULY 20] (Diary:) "Read a lesson in Greek Reader, beginning at the poetry. Read some in Tutor and Cicero and wrote some Latin."

1830, JULY 21] (Diary:) "Walked. Read some in Self-Knowledge---a lesson in Greek and commenced prosody--a lesson in Latin Tutor and wrote some Latin."

1830, JULY 26] (Diary:) "Read in Self-Knowledge. Read a lesson in Greek and Latin Tutor. P.M. Read lesson in Cicero.... Attended club. Question 'Ought the Quakers and Shakers to be exempted from military duty?' Spouted."

1830, JULY 27] (Diary:) "Finished reviewing Greek Reader. Read and wrote from Latin Tutor. P.M. Finished oration for Quintus Ligarius in Cicero. Studied hard."

1830, JULY 28] (Diary:) "Commenced Greek Testament. Read 4 1/2 chapters. Read in Tutor and wrote. Read lesson in Cicero, commencing oration for King Deioterus."

1830, JULY 31] (The following advertisement appeared in the Yeoman's Gazette for July 17, 24, 31, Aug. 8, 14:)

CONCORD ACADEMY AND SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS.

THE preceptor of Concord Academy informs the public that he has made arrangements for a separate department the ensuing quarter, which will commence on Tuesday, August 31st, and has engaged a gentleman who has been uncommonly successful as an instructor, expressly for the purpose of teaching the art of SCHOOL KEEPING; and that he will give a course of familiar Lectures on that subject, explaining the

newest and most approved methods of managing schools, and of teaching the several branches. The management is such as will not interfere with the classical and other studies pursued at the Academy. Weekly lectures on subjects connected with Education are expected from members of Concord Lyceum....

1830, AUG. 2] (Diary:) "Read 4 chapters in Greek Testament, & a lesson in Tutor. P.M. Cicero lesson .... Attended club-meeting. Took part in a dialogue. Read Collegian No. 3."

1830, AUG. 9] (Diary:) "Read 12 pp. in Greek Testament, and a lesson in Cicero.... Evening--attended Debating club-- Had a very slim meeting, and a silly question. 'Which excites the passions to the highest degree, love, or anger?' This is, in my humble opinion, no question at all. Spouted--and for this reason, that the regular disputant was absent and I was chosen to supply his place."

1830, AUG. 14] (Diary:) "Finished the Gospel of John in the Greek Test. and this is all I shall be required to get. Read a lesson in Cicero...."

1830, AUG. 14] (Editorial in the Yeoman's Gazette, Aug. 14, 1830, p. 2:)

SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS.---It is a striking fact, that the calling, which exerts most widely an influence on the happiness and intelligence of the community, is the only one which can be assumed without some preliminary discipline. We refer to the calling of the schoolmaster.-----Other pursuits require an apprenticeship, a succession of years devoted to the initiary process, they must be learnt by instruction and experience, but the schoolmaster is allowed to enter with no previous lessons on the duties of governing and teaching. If he knows the humanities, if he can bring certificates of literary attainments and good morals, this is esteemed ample qualification, for undertaking this most delicate, difficult and, we may add, the most important duties ever entrusted to a man.

Custom has made this familiar, and it is therefore hardly noticed. Perhaps too necessity has been a partial apology.---For the shortness, of district schools, renders it impossible to fill them with professed teachers. Yet even these might be supplied with masters, and mistresses, who have paid some special attention to the nature and qualifications of teachers. They need not be supplied by indifferent teachers, because such can be hired, or bought cheap. Some selection may be made on different grounds from cheapness, which would improve the tone of school education.

There has been another reason for admitting raw hands to take charge of schools. Heretofore no seminaries have been established for teachers. Not many years since, public attention was awakened, and petitions presented to the legislature for the Incorporation of a Seminary for Teachers, and hopes entertained, that the State would liberally patronize an institution which promised so much public benefit. But with the excitement the fond anticipations died away. Yet the want did not cease to be felt. The public have and do realize, that schoolmasters and schoolmistresses have often need themselves to be indoctrinated in the difficult art of schookkeeping. It is an art not acquired by intuition. Neither learning, good sense, nor judgment, can alone, or combined, always succeed in making a person a skillful teacher. Other wisdom is needed; a tact to govern, an aptness to communicate, are absolute requisites.----These will not be found in books. They are unwritten laws, which can scarcely be learned apart from oral instruction.

To supply this deficiency in a measure, a department of instruction will be added to Mr Allen's Academy in this town, the next quarter. The Precepter advertises that lectures and familiar instruction, will be given on the art of School Teaching to such pupils, as wish to qualify themselves for the employment. This is an experiment, and will test the feelings of the public on the general subject. If this proposal finds good support, if pupils come and connect themselves with the Academy to avail themselves of this opportunity, it will indicate a popular feeling in favor of improvement of the schools. Feeling the highest confidence in the instructors, we hope they will find ample encouragement to recompense their labors.

1830, AUG. 16] (Diary:) "Finished Cicero and studied all day-- Evening--attended debating club. Declaimed and asked a dismission which was granted, as this was the last meeting that I should attend. This was the first honourable discharge that there has been from the Society. While it has been going, I have always lent my arm to help it along, and I hope that it may yet continue and be the means of doing much good to the young men of the town."

1830, AUG. 18] (Diary:) "Examination at the Academy. Commenced at nine o'clock A.M. and continued until one P.M. There were present about sixty spectators--gentlemen, ladies--boys and girls--male and female.... As for myself, I recited in Cicero and Greek Reader, and was ready to recite in the other books required at college, but was not taken up. Took part in a dialogue with E. R. Hoar. Declaimed--an extract from Judge Story's address at Salem, Sept. 1828. The examination, I suppose, was as good as usual, i.e. I know nothing to the contrary. For my part, I cared no great [sic] about it, as it is but a foretaste of what is coming hereafter. Paid my term bill to Mr. Allen, which is $5.00."

1830, AUG. 18] ("Order of Examination" from the Allen papers:)

Latin-----Latin Reader, Second class in Virgil.
First class in Virgil, Historiae Sacrae
Cicero, Horace
Greek-----Valpy's Grammar, Greek Delectus, Greek
Reader, Xenophon's Anabasis, Graeca Majora
French----Grammar, Andromaque, tragedie de Racine.
English Branches
Whelpley's Universal History, Smith's Theory of Moral Sentiments, Paley's Moral Philosophy, Euler's Algebra, Trigonometry, Application of Algebra to Geometry.

1830, AUG. 18] ("Order of Declamation" from the Allen papers:)
Edward S. Hoar. Lines written on hearing that the Austrians had entered Naples
John S. Keyes. Battle of Waterloo. Byron

William C. Baker. Extract from Otis' Botta
David Henry Thoreau. Extract of a letter from the British Spy. Wirt
Moses B. Prichard. Address to La Fayette. D. Webster
J. G. Davis & J. F. Barrett. Sir Lucius O'Trigger & Acres. R. B. Sheridan
Geo. Moore & E. R. Hoar. Procida-- Raimond Mrs. Hemans.
I. Fiske & J. F. Barrett. Catiline--Aurelius-- Croly
Moses Prichard & D. H. Thoreau. Sir Anthony & Captain Absolute. Sheridan
J. F. Barrett. Speech on moving an amendment. Chatham
J. Gardner Davis. Character of Mr Pitt, Earl of Chatham. Grattan
Isaac Fiske. Speech on British Aggressions. James Otis
E. Rockwood Hoar. Intrepidity of our Ancestors. Sprague
George Moore. Extract from a discourse in commemoration of the settlement of Salem. I. Story

1830, AUG. 19] (Diary:) "Studied all day. Evening--attended a party at Mr. Hoar's, consisting of scholars of the academy, and of course a pleasant one." [Thoreau was probably present.]

1830, AUG. 21] (Diary:) "Reviewed the Latin & Greek Grammars, Geography, some in Arithmetic and Algebra. Hard times, but examination approaches...."

1830, AUG. 23] (The diary this day records that George Moore passed his entrance examinations at Harvard, conditioned only in Sallust. Here are listed his examiners and the subjects:)

(1)	Sallust	Prof. Channing.
(2)	Virgil	Mr. McKean.
(3)	Making of Latin	Prof. Willard.
(4)	Algebra	Prof. Farrar.
(5)	Algebra	Mr. Sweetser
(6)	Greek Poetry	Dr. Popkin.
(7)	Greek Prose	Mr. Felton.
(8)	Georgics in Virgil	Mr. Cushing.
(9)	Arithmetic	Mr. Gilis.
(10)	Geography	Mr. Brigham.
(11)	Greek Testament	Dr. Ware.
(12)	Cicero	Dr. Hedge.

1830, AUG. 31] The Academy began its fall quarter. (The records covering Thoreau's last three years at the Academy are few, but I anticipate the eventual discovery of new evidence. What we know at present is set forth below:)

1831, circa] (From the Allen papers:)

Order of Examination—
French-----Telemaque---French Reader--
Latin------Caesar's Commentaries--Latin Reader--
Cicero's Orations---Livy---Virgil---
Opera Ciceronis---Latin Grammar---
Greek------Xenophon----Greek Reader---Cleveland's
Greek Antiquities---

English Branches--
Geography---Chemistry---Lacroix's Algebra---Astronomy
Conversations on Political Economy---Reading and Composition---

Declamation
Edward S. Hoar. The African Chief Bryant
George Brooks. Apostrophe to the Ocean. Byron
Henry Shattuck and Samuel S. Niles. The Greek Emigrant's Song. J. G. Percival
Edwin J. Bent. Speech of Henry 5th before Harfleur. Shakespeare
Owen G. Peabody. Human Life. Bernard Barton, Esq.
Isaac Fiske & Henry Thoreau. Prince Henry and Falstaff. Shakespeare
The English Traveller. E. J. Bent and B. F. Johnson
Edward S. Hoar. Destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem by fire. Millman.
John S. Keyes. Extract from a speech in the House of Representatives on the Amendment of the Constitution Storrs
Henry Thoreau. Buonaparte's Address to his army.
Isaac Fiske. Close of a speech in memory of Washington. Webster
Josiah G. Davis. America. Philips.

1831, MAY 31] Summer quarter began. (See Yeoman's Gazette, May 21, 1831, p. 3.)

1831, AUG. 24] Examinations at the Concord Academy. (See Yeoman's Gazette, Aug. 20, 1831, p. 3.)

1832, circa] "Order of Examination" (from the Allen papers:)
French---Conversations de Phocion
Latin----Latin Reader----Viri Romae
Cornelius Nepos---Virgil---Sallust
Cicero de Senectute--Latin Grammar
Greek----Greek Reader---Xenophon's Anabasis---
Graeca Majora
English Branches:
Colburn's Arithmetic, Geography, Grund's Natural Philosophy, Grund's Geometry, Roman Antiquities, Lacroix Algebra, Reading, Composition.

1832, circa] ("Order of Declamation" from the Allen papers:)
George Frisbie Hoar. Address to the American Soldiers
Edward S. Hoar. Self Conceit. An Address spoken by a very small boy.
Edward S. Hoar. Speech of Onias dissuading the Jews from Revolt
John S. Keyes. Supposed Speech of an opponent of the Declaration of Independence. Webster
George Frisbie Hoar. The Better Land. Mrs. Hemans
Dialogue: Pizarro, Gomez, Orozembo. Edward S. Hoar, John S. Keyes, Ed[w]in J. Bent.
Second Scene. Rolla, Alonzo, Sentinel. Samuel H. Pierce, John S. Keyes, Edwin J. Bent
George M. Brooks. The Isles of Greece. Byron
Samuel H. Pierce. Address of Alasco to his country men
David H. Thoreau. Speech in the National Convention of France
John Maynard. Principles of the American Revolution.
Jona[n] Fay Barrett. Extract of a Speech on the trial of Aaron Burr for High Treason. Wirt

1832, FALL] (Henry Thoreau and the other seniors in the Concord Academy kept an eye on the rules of admission published annually by the College. See A Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Harvard University for the Academical Year 1832-3, Cambridge, 1832, p. 23:)

"For admission to the Freshman Class, the candidates

are examined in the whole of Virgil, Cicero's Select Orations, and Sallust; Jacob's Greek Reader, and the four Gospels of the Greek Testament; Adam's Latin Grammar, Gould's edition, and the Gloucester Greek Grammar, Cambridge edition, both including Prosody, (Buttmann's Greek Grammar is also received); writing Latin; Lacroix's Arithmetic, Cambridge edition; Euler's Algebra, printed also at Cambridge; 'Elements of Geography, Ancient and Modern, by J. E. Worcester.'

"It is very desirable and important that the candidates should be well and correctly prepared, particularly in grammatical and elementary knowledge. If they have more time than is requisite for this purpose, Instructors are desired and advised, for obvious reasons, not to anticipate the College studies, but rather to extend their studies to other authors.

"The stated time of examination for the Freshman Class is the first Thursday of the summer vacation. Those who are necessarily prevented from offering themselves at that time, may be examined on the Friday of Commencement week."

1832, SEPT. 29] (The Yeoman's Gazette, on this date, carried on page 1 the following quotation from Wilson's Lectures on Poetry:)

GENIUS——TALENT——CLEVERNESS.

Genius rushes like a whirlwind——Talent marches like a cavalcade of heavy men and heavy horses——Cleverness skims like a swallow in a summer evening, with a sharp note and a sudden turning. The man of genius dwells with nature; the man of talent in his studdy [sic]; but the clever man dances here and there, and every where, like a butterfly in a hurricane, striking every thing and enjoying nothing, but too light to be dashed to pieces. The man of talent will attack theories—the clever man will assail the individual and slander private character. But the man of genius despiseth both, he heeds none, he fears none, and walks forth an example, that "eagles fly alone,——they are but sheep that herd together." It is true, that should a poisonous worm cross his path, he may tread it under his foot; should a cur snarl at him he may chastise it; but he will not, cannot attack the privacy of another. Clever men write verses, men of talent write prose, but men of genius write poetry.

1833, JULY 18] Either on this date or on August 31, Henry Thoreau took his examination for entrance at Harvard College. In his letter of Sept. 30, 1847, to Henry Williams, Jr., the Class Secretary, he wrote of his preparation: "I was fitted, or rather made unfit, for College, at Concord Academy & elsewhere, mainly by myself, with the countenance of Phineas Allen, Preceptor." And in the Class Book in the Harvard Archives he wrote (in 1837): "At the age of sixteen I turned my steps towards these venerable halls, bearing in mind, as I have ever since done, that I had two ears and but one tongue.[1] I came——I saw——I conquered[2]——but at the hardest, another such victory and I had been undone.[3] 'One branch more,' to use Mr. Quincy's own words, 'and you had been turned by entirely. You have barely got in.' However 'A man's a man for a' that,'[4] I was in, and didn't stop to ask how I got there."

1 This reflects the famous sentence of Zeno the Stoic, quoted in Thoreau's Journal, I, 27: "On this account have we two ears and but one mouth, that we may hear more, and speak less."

2 Julius Caesar's Letter to Amantius, announcing his victory over Pharnaces at Zela in Pontus, 47 B.C.

3 "Another such victory over the Romans, and we are undone." Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, referring to his dearly bought victory at Asculum, 280 B.C. See Plutarch, Lives: Pyrrhus, Ch. 21, sec. 9.

4 From Robert Burns, "For A' That And A' That."

1833, AUG. 10] (Phineas Allen ran the following advertisement in the Yeoman's Gazette on Aug. 10, 17, 24, 31, Sept. 7, 14:)

Concord Academy.

THE subscriber respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he has engaged Miss LUCY P. F. BARRETT to assist him in teaching the English branches the next quarter which will commence on Tuesday the 3d day of September next. To those who are acquainted with Miss Barrett's qualifications for teaching, any recommendation from me would be superfluous. All the pupils will be with the Principal the greater part of each day, and he will feel himself responsible for their improvement in every branch of study pursued, in good morals, and correct manners....

1833, AUG. 31] Henry Thoreau might have taken his entrance examination for Harvard on this day. See under July 18, 1833.

1833, OCT. 18] (Henry Thoreau was now at the College. The following letter, written by his brother John to George Stearns at Woburn, Mass., is now in the Massachusetts Historical Society. It gives us a glimpse of the town, of the Academy, and of tired Henry, who had returned to Concord for a short visit during the preceding week.)

Concord. Oct. 18th 1833.

Friend Stearns.

You will see by this epistle that I am in the land of Harmony; yea verily, I am a Sojourner in the tents of the peaceful. I intended to have written to you last week, but was not well. I had the nose Bleed (ignoble complaint) on Cattle show day, to such an extent that I fainted from loss of blood, and was not able to participate in the festivities of the day. I have since been rather weak, and have not taken much exercise. I am now gaining fast, and contemplate many Pedestrian excursions. I received your letter, and was extremely shocked at your vituperation of "Natures first best gift to man"; you called the portion under your immediate observation, flat, & insipid see Johnson; Flat. Lying horizontally postrate [sic]. Insipid. without taste. now the conclusion I have arrived at is this, that while lying postrate [sic] you have found them without taste; and their being now flat in another sense in which Johnson uses it, I conceive to be for you a very fortunate circumstance viz Flat. without protuberances. Perhaps these damsels are not so bad as you imagine; you know the poet says "Woman should have a winning "Softness." You must have more charity. The world is under an obligation to woman, which it can never repay, & although some have the audacity to assert, that a considerable portion of womankind are engaged in liquidating it at this present time, yet I consider it as base calumny, and slander. When I

reccommend to you the exercise of more charity, I do not mean, that charity which is without discretion "That thou mayst regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge, for the lips of a strange woman drop as a Honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil," And I would particularly reccommend to your attentive consideration, the 7th Chapter of Proverbs. For my part, I am exempt from all such temptations; as there is naught here save a few antiquated Spinsters, or December virgins, if you will, and well may I sing——"What,s this dull town to me? no girls are here." E & S Hoar are in the city still. Sarah is coming up to enliven this wilderness in about six weeks, and as I shall probably be here, I shall as I said before, take every oppty of testifying my admiration of your choice. Jealousy, tormenting ones self for fear of being tormented by another, so have none of it my dear fellow.————You must not suppose that "while you slumbered, the enemy came and sowed tares" no my dear Othello, I claim her by the right of a first discoverer; though perhaps you think that this may terminate like the discovery of our Continent, in being discovered by one, and named after another. In this respect, I presume you have faith, we read it is the substance of things hoped for. Hope you,ll swallow this last morceau, as a corrective of the pills, and I pray George you will not suffer these intimations to disturb your equanimity. I exhort you to patience, for I beg it may not be said of me, as was said of the immortal Gilpin; Soll fair and softly!! John he cried, but John he cried in vain. Stearns Wheeler & Henry walked up from Cambridge last week. Henry blistered his feet very badly, he said he walked two miles in his stockings; he was three hours coming from Lincoln; he made quite a short visit. Mr Allens school is quite full, he has over fifty scholars, mostly small however; perhaps you are aware that he has engaged Miss Lucy F. Barrett as an assistant. A Temperance Socty was formed here about a week since, Revd Dr Ripley President. Is your situation in any degree rendd pleasanter. I hope it will be such as to admit of your writing to me frequently. You must excuse my writing, as I have no lines, and our accomodations [sic] for e[pistolary] effusions are very poor. I shall not promise you much satisfac-[tion] in perusing my letters, as news is actually obsolete in this place. I hope you will conclude to pay us a visit soon, so wishing you escape from certain green eyed Monsters, I shall, until some refulgent orb in (the shape of a bevy of fair damsels) shines upon this deserted land; subscribe myself

Yours from Sahara

John Thoreau.

P S. Please present my respects to your Brothers, and write soon. J. T.

[For the song referred to in the foregoing, see Grigg's Southern and Western Songster: Being a Choice Collection of the Most Fashionable Songs (new ed. enlarged), Phila., 1832, p. 70: "Robin Adair"—by Braham:

What's this dull town to me?
Robin's not near,
What was't I wish'd to see?
What wish'd to hear?
Where's all the joy and mirth
Made this town a heaven on earth?
Oh! they're all fled with thee, Robin Adair.

1833, NOV.] Though Phineas Allen seems to have issued printed catalogues for several years, the only surviving example appeared during the term following Thoreau's departure. (See below under May 20, 1830.)

CATALOGUE

OF SCHOLARS WHO HAVE ATTENDED THE ACADEMY IN CONCORD, MASS., THE QUARTER ENDING NOVEMBER, 1833, BEING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE TWELFTH YEAR SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

PROPRIETORS.

Hon. ABIEL HAYWOOD,
Hon. SAMUEL HOAR,
JOSIAH DAVIS, Esq.,
Col. WM. WHITING,
Hon. NATHAN BROOKS.

Mr. PHINEAS ALLEN, *Principal.*
Miss LUCY F. F. BARRETT, *Assistant Teacher of the English Branches.*
Mr. AMIEL W. WHIPPLE, *Assistant Teacher of Writing.*

FEMALES.

Elizabeth W. Barrett,	*Concord.*
Mary G. Bowers,	*Chelmsford.*
Helen E. Bowers,	*Boston.*
Susan C. Colburn,	*Claiborne, Alabama.*
Nancy P. Conant,	*Littleton.*
Laura A. Conant,	*Boston.*
Eliza A. Cutler,	*Lexington.*
Cynthia E. Dennis,	*Concord.*
Lucy B. Fiske,	*Lincoln.*
Elizabeth S. Gates,	*Ashby.*
Ann P. Hosmer,	*Concord.*
Helen M. Hosmer,	*Concord.*
Rebecca P. Hubbard,	*Concord.*
Susan H. Hubbard,	*Concord.*
Lucy M. Mann,	*Dover.*
Harriet N. Pratt,	*Concord.*
Martha L. K. Prescott,	*Concord.*
Elizabeth H Prichard,	*Concord.*
Amelia M. Prichard,	*Concord.*
Lucia M. Rice,	*Concord.*
Sarah E. Shattuck,	*Concord.*
Maria L. Smith,	*Lincoln.*
Eliza B. Stacey,	*Concord.*
Mary Stow,	*Concord.*
Lydia B. Stow,	*Concord.*
Sophia E. Thoreau,	*Concord.*
Eliza Woodward,	*Concord.*
Susan H. Wyman,	*Concord.*

MALES.

Jonathan F. Barrett,	*Concord.*	
Albert W. Bridge,	*Concord.*	
George M. Brooks,	*Concord.*	
John Brown,	*Concord.*	
Leonard Brown,	*Concord.*	
Elbridge Clark,	*Concord.*	
Asahel Dakin,	*Lincoln.*	
William J. Derby,	*Concord.*	
James Farrar,	*Lincoln.*	
Deming J. Hastings,	*Concord.*	
Edward S. Hoar,	*Concord.*	
George P. Hoar,	*Concord.*	
James D. Hosmer,	*Concord.*	
Silas T. Jewell,	*Concord.*	
John S. Keyes,	*Concord.*	
George Loring,	*Concord.*	
Elbridge Marsiul,	*Littleton.*	
Richmond Nickles,	*Carlisle.*	
Charles H. Prescott,	*Concord.*	
Henry L. Shattuck,	*Concord.*	
William F. Shepherd,	*Concord.*	
John D. Sherman,	*Lincoln.*	
Francis Smith,	*Lincoln.*	

William S. Thayer,	*Concord.*
Isaac F. Thayer,	*Concord.*
William G. Tuttle,	*Littleton.*
Augustus S. Tuttle,	*Concord.*
Amiel W. Whipple,	*Concord.*

MALES, ... 28
FEMALES, ... 28
TOTAL, ... 56

COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

Besides the common branches of an English education, instruction is given in the Latin, Greek and French languages—the higher branches of Mathematics—Natural, Moral, and Intellectual Philosophy, Chemistry, &c.

TERMS.

Tuition, $5,00 per quarter. Pupils, under 12 years of age, who attend to English branches only, are received at $3,00.

Board with the Preceptor, in summer, from $1,50 to $1,75—in winter, from $1,75 to $2,00 per week.

APPENDIX I.
CONCORD ACADEMY THEMES ETC.

(The mottoes in the following surviving papers are, doubtless, characteristic of those which Mr. Allen assigned regularly. Only Moore's is given complete.)

1] On Cruelty to Animals.

"The poor beetle that we tread upon
In corporal suffering feels a pang as great
As when a giant dies."

I think it is a pity to kill the poor innocent worms that crawl upon the ground, or any other animals that live; for the worms will not hurt us; and if....
--Caroline Downes Brooks. Æt.9.

2] "Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability. Their chief use for delight is in private and retiring, for ornament in discourse, and for ability in the judgement and disposition of business." [Bacon]

In the first place studies serve for delight in private. There are few people who arrive at mature years, that do not spend some portion of their time alone, who are not at some seasons apart from society, and from the active scenes of life....
--Sarah Brown

3] [Same motto]

Since the invention of letters, there have always been some people who have engaged in study, and who have found in that employment great delight. But their number formerly was small indeed in comparison with what it is now....
--Sarah D. Clarke

4] "Few things are impracticable in themselves; and it is for want of application rather than means, that men fail of success."

We should endeavor to use all our efforts for acquiring knowledge, in the different branches of science, which will enable us to go forward, better prepared for success in different spheres of action....
--Nancy Harmstad

5] "The fire in the flint shows not till it be struck."

It is a remarkable fact, that the greatest men in every age & of every country, have generally been produced in turbulent times. The obvious reason of this is, that in those times neither rank nor wealth are of any avail; but it is genius, native talent, which then alone is valuable: which enables a man to rule the storm....
--E. R. Hoar

6] "Then gnawed his pen, then dashed it on the ground
Sinking from thought to thought, a vast profound."
Dunciad. Lib. I.v.117

Perplexity, in a school-girl, has a sort of corrosive property,--evinced by the gnawed state of every thing near—— Pens, pencils & paper fall victims to the teeth of one possessed with this said demon—— Alas! my poor pen! you are already more than half devoured!——This kind of perplexity is induced by various causes. Such as being asked a question at recitation which you cannot answer—— being told at examination to parse a word which you "really forgot to look out"—or being afflicted with a short memory when called upon to give an account of the sermon—
The cause of my present trouble is an order to "prepare a composition for examination"....
--Elizabeth Hoar
Aug. 21st 1829.

7] How beauteous is evening: the setting sun shines,
Like a faint dying rose on yon mountain of snow.
How beautious [sic] is evening the full clustered vines,
Absort the last day beam, and mimic its glow.

Evening is the most pleasant part of the twenty four hours....
--Frances Jane H. Prichard

8] "Whatever is, is right." Pope

The theme, which I have selected for composition, would seem, at first thought, to be absolutely false, for we can not reconcile the idea that sin which debases the soul and sinks man down from his high standing, almost to a level with the brutes—— that destructive wars, by whose means, thousands are, in one day, nay in one hour, cruelly butchered, and whole nations doomed to a long servitude——that earthquakes and other tremendous explosions of nature, which, in one moment, swallow up whole cities and villages——and, that the devastating tempest that sweeps over and lays waste a great extent of country, and deprives the poor husbandman of his long anticipated crop,——are right. But when we reflect upon the order of things, and look abroad into the extended field of nature, we find ample reason for

the truth of my subject.

The school-boy, whose daily task is laid out before him, and who neglects his duty, is punished for his negligence. He thinks it very wrong and very cruel to be punished; still every one will allow, even the same school-boy when a little older, that this correction was necessary and beneficial to him, as well as a warning to the rest of the school.

The man, who, having property, would indulge himself in indolence, thoughtlessness, and a neglect of his affairs, soon finds himself arrested by the rigorous hand of the law, his estate dissipated, and his family reduced to want. This, he will say, is very hard and unjust, but it is the natural consequence of his conduct, and thus he is made an example for thousands, who are by this taught what they should avoid.

The destructive wars, that have ravaged every part of the world, at different times, and have destroyed the lives of so many millions of men, have frequently been the means of civilizing nations, of the cultivation of the arts and sciences, of the improved state of commerce, manufactures, and agriculture, in a great degree; and they have served to call forth many a masterly spirit, that would otherwise have lain dormant. It is said "Necessity is the mother of invention," and this seems to be proved true in all the conditions of life. In war, when one nation is attacked by another, that nation is obliged to find some means of defence, and for this the minds of all seem to be called forth and set at work. Should we have heard of an Alexander, a Hannibal, and other great generals and warriors of antiquity, and perhaps I might say of a Demosthenes and Cicero, had it not been for the numerous wars carried on in their time? Yet I would not say that simply hearing of their names, or knowing that there have been such men, has any great effect, but their deeds and the influence of them upon all future ages, the manner in which they defended themselves, the discoveries which they made, as it were from necessity, have been the great means of civilizing and refining the world.

The Revolutionary war in our own country, would seem very unjust, on the part of England, but who will venture to say that it has not done good? Who will say that it would have been better, had there been no war? Behold the example which our country has set for all future ages. It speaks loudly to all nations who are oppressed, to throw off their shackles and become free. Although many noble souls lost their lives in the contest, yet they lost them in a glorious cause, and set an example which will never be forgotten as long as time lasts.

The convulsions of nature often seem shocking and awful; when, for instance, an earthquake buries at once whole villages beneath it's ruins, and hundreds or thousands of living souls are consigned to instant death, yet such is the construction of our globe, that these natural convulsions will happen, and all serve to admonish those who live in a country subject to them, to be prepared for the like fate. All these things are overruled by a kind providence, and although I do not believe that, in our time, "special judgments" are sent upon any one by our Creator, for the good are afflicted equally with the bad, yet all these are consistent with the will of Him who is the director and governor of the Universe, and is using all these means for reforming & purifying the world.

The husbandman, who sees his crops laid waste by the raging storm, and the golden harvest, which he has long anxiously expected to gather, suddenly destroyed, thinks it very hard to be thus afflicted. But does no good result from this? Does it not teach man to be more dependent upon his maker, and make him better?

Indeed, we are all a school, the whole world is a school, and our great master is God. In our schools there ever will be some rogues and some scholars prone to vice, and these scholars are corrected, not only for their own benefit, but for the benefit of the whole school. In the great school of nature there are many bad characters, and they are all subject to correction, and many are made examples for the sake of the whole. As in our schools, the laws of the master are violated, so in the great school the laws of God are violated. He commands "Thou shalt not kill," "Thou shalt not steal" &c., and this would appear to undermine the foundation of all my reasoning, for we should certainly say it is not right to violate the laws of our maker, and I admit that it would appear so in the beginning, but look at the tendency of it. Why were these laws given? Our Creator knew that man would commit sin, or else he would not have given them, for no laws are make [sic] unless there is some cause. We look abroad and are pleased with the pleasant sun and the calm weather, but the contrary is the effect when the storm approaches, yet we find all this necessary, for man soon becomes wearied with a monotony of any kind, and wants a change, and thus, continual fair weather, just as, continual prosperity, makes us forget our dependence and think ourselves something more than we are. There are many things, which to almost every one of us, seem wrong, but we are too much inclined to look upon the dark side. Moreover, there is One whose ways we cannot comprehend, who orders and governs all things, and with him

"All Nature is but Art, unknown to thee;
All Chance, Direction, which thou canst not see;
All Discord, Harmony, not understood;
All partial Evil, universal Good:
And, spite of Pride, in erring Reason's spite,
One truth is clear, Whatever is, is right."

Geo. Moore.

APPENDIX II.
MATERIALS ON PHINEAS ALLEN, ESQ.

[Sections from Judge Keyes' "Autobiography" quoted in Amelia F. Emerson, "John Shepard Keyes," Memoirs of...the Social Circle, V, 75:]

"I was now in my 'teens, a forward, smart, impudent, mischievous boy, fully up to my place in the world, and quite ready to take a hand in anything going on. The anti-Masonic excitement was raging. Father was a Mason, and King of the Concord Chapter, and I was dubbed Prince John. Politics were personal then if ever, and in 1834 they culminated in Concord in a manner that affected me permanently. At the March meeting that year the anti-Masons carried the Town and turned out Dr. Abiel Heywood the Clerk, Selectman, and factotum of the Town for thirty years, and elected Phin Allen, our Academy teacher, to the Clerkship. It was a revolution. The next morning I was told that I was not to go to school any more. It was high time it was ended. I had played truant ev-

ery afternoon that previous winter—with no rebuke from the teacher, report to my parents, or effect on my lessons.

"On June 1, 1834, we began a new private school kept by Mr. William Whiting in the upper hall of the Academy building. The newest books and methods, the zeal of the new teacher, and the inspiration of real knowledge made the school a success from the start. In a year and a quarter I learned more, ten times over, from Mr. Whiting than I had in the seven years of Mr. Allen, and acquired habits of study and application I had never before imagined possible. Latin became a delight and an actual language, Greek unfolded its mysteries and beauties, French its grace, and arithmetic and algebra became the fascinations of exact science. He introduced us to Shakespeare, to Plutarch, to Burke, and to English literature generally. What a revelation this time was to me, and to most of the others!"

[From the sketch of Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar's life in the Harvard University Archives, quoted from Edward Waldo Emerson's "Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar" in Memoirs of...the Social Circle, IV, 9:]

"Nothing of historical importance occurred until, at the age of six, I commenced the study of the ancient languages at our Village Academy, which school I continued to attend from that time forth until entering College. There was a succession of instructors, most of them as bad as could reasonably be desired."

[Phineas Allen's letter to his surviving Harvard classmates in 1850, now in the University Archives (H.U.338.25) and edited here with permission:]

Walpole Ms. July 1850

To my respected Classmates——

Having rec^d an invitation to attend the first regularly called meeting of the "Class of 1825," I shall endeavor to be present, but as circumstances may prevent, I cheerfully respond to the interrogatories contained in the circular. I was born in Medfield Ms. Oct. 15, 1801, on the farm wh. has now been in possession of the Allen family more than 200 yrs. I labored upon the farm in the summer, & attended the district school in the winter till I was 17 yrs. of age, when I made my first experiment of teaching in the town of Sherburne. I then pursued my studies preparitory [sic] for admission to college with my eldest brother in Northboro'. In the winter of my Freshman year, I taught a district school in that part of Chelmsford wh. is now Lowell. The two following winters I taught in Northboro'. In my Senior year, I was employed in giving instruction to a class in a private family, in Cambridge. On the Monday after receiving my degree, I commenced my first yearly school at Brookline, & remained there two years. The committee proposed to increase my sallary [sic] if I would remain another year; but thinking I could improve my condition by a change, I made a contract with the Proprietors of the Academy in Concord, & commenced my school there in Sept. 1827. The following year, I was united in marriage to Miss Clarissa Fiske, daughter of Maj. J. Fiske of Medfield. I continued to teach in Concord till the close of 1835, when I contracted with the Proprietors of the Academy in Northfield, to purchase the buildings & teach the school. I removed with my family to Northfield in Jan. 1836, & remained till June 1847. For the two winters past, & the present summer, I have been employed as a teacher in Walpole Ms.

Altho' I have passed most of my lifetime in the humble occupation of a Teacher, yet I do not feel that my labor has been in vain, when I can number among those whom I have prepared & offered for admission to college, such men as Judge Hoar, the late Rev. Geo. Moore of Quincy, Ill. & others who have become eminent in their professions, & useful members of society, & when I can add with confidence, that some of my good scholars are among the dearest friends that I have on earth.

I have written nothing for publication excepting a few communications for Peridicals [sic], & reports of school committees; extracts from wh. have been published in the Annual reports of the Secretary of the Board of Education.

In regard to my health, I have not found it necessary to receive medicine from a physician since leaving college.

I have five children, living; four sons, & one daughter. I have buried two children, a son & a daughter. Thus, we have all, probably tasted the bitter, as well as the sweets of life.

From your affectionate classmate
Phineas Allen

P.S. The names of my parents were Phineas & Ruth Allen.

EVENING TRANSCRIPT
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1885.

RECENT DEATHS.

Phineas Allen.

Phineas Allen of West Newton died on Monday night at the age of eighty-three years. He was born in Medfield, and was a descendant of the original settlers of the town. In 1818 he commenced teaching in Sherborn. He was then only seventeen years old. The following winter he taught in the east district of Northborough. In 1821 he entered college at Cambridge, and the day previous had walked from Northborough to Boston, a distance of thirty miles, and after being admitted to the university walked back. Students at that period were allowed to be absent from their class in winter for teaching purposes, and Mr. Allen taught in Chelmsford (now Lowell) the first winter. During the winters of his last four years of college life he taught the children of the late Dr. Ware. On the Monday succeeding graduation day in 1825 he commenced to teach in Brookline, where he received the degree of A. B. In 1827 he went to Concord, where he taught eight years. There he fitted for college the late Judge Albert Nelson, the late William Whitney, legal adviser to President Lincoln; in 1831 Judge E. Rockwood Hoar, and in 1833 H. D. Thoreau. Senator Hoar of Worcester commenced at six years the study of Latin under Mr. Allen. In 1836 he left Concord and assumed charge of the Northfield Academy, and he also taught in Medway, Walpole, Dedham, Bolton, East Braintree, Scituate, Provincetown, Westminster, West Newbury and Tyngsborough. In 1860 he went to West Newton, where he has since resided, and been employed as a teacher in the West Newton English and classical schools. He taught for the last time Thursday of last week. He was the oldest teacher in the State and possibly in the country in active service. He was known among all his old pupils as a veritable encyclopædia of general information, being a thorough Latin, Greek, Spanish, French and Portuguese scholar. Between 1818 and 1876 he lost but three school-days on account of sickness. In 1876 he was upset in a carriage at Medfield, at the centennial celebration there, and was consequently disabled a few months. Five of the pupils taught in Concord became judges, one a D. D. and one a general (General Whipple). While at West Newton he has been teaching the languages, and had special charge of the Spanish students.

Newton Journal. May 30, 1885.

PHINEAS ALLEN, A. B.

Sketch of His Life and Services. Probably the Oldest School-Master in the United States in Active Service.

A remarkable member of a remarkable family was Phineas Allen, A. B., who passed away at his late residence on Cherry street, West Newton, Monday night, at the advanced age of 83 years. He was born in Medfield, Mass., in 1801, and was a descendant of one of the first settlers of that town. He first began to teach in 1818, in the town of Sherborn, having received a certificate from the minister of the parish, Rev. S. B. Townsend. His oldest pupil, (who is now living) was sixteen years of age. In describing his first school house he stated that it contained only one room, warmed by a large fire-place, using a four foot log. In the winter of 1819–20 he taught in the East District in Northboro', and while there he was quietly preparing for Harvard College. The day previous to his examination he walked from Northboro' to Cambridge, a distance of thirty miles, and walked back the next day. At that time the students were allowed to be absent from their class in winter, should they desire to teach elsewhere. Mr. Allen improved this opportunity and the first winter he taught in Chelmsford, (now Lowell) there being but one factory in the place at that time. During the last four years of his college life, he taught the children of the late Dr. Henry Ware, Senior. There were about sixty students in the same class as Mr. Allen, many of whom have since become celebrated. Among them were Charles Francis Adams, Judge Seth Ames, ex-Mayor Jonathan Chapman, Rev. Dr. Frederick H. Hedge, Thomas Sherwin, late master of the English High School, Admiral Charles H. Davis, Horatio Greenough, the sculptor, and C. K. Dilloway, Esq., late of the Latin School, Boston. He graduated from college in 1825, and the following Monday after commencement he began to teach in Brookline and while there he received the degree of A. B. In 1827 he went to Concord, Mass., where he taught for eight years in the Academy as Principal. While in that town he fitted for college the late Judge Albert Nelson, the late William Whiting, legal adviser to President Lincoln; in 1831 Judge E. Rockwood Hoar, and in 1833 H. D. Thoreau; and Judge George M. Brooks of the Middlesex Probate Court. Senator Hoar of Worcester commenced at six years the study of Latin under Mr. Allen. In 1836 he left Concord and assumed charge of the Northfield Academy, where he remained eleven years. He also taught in Medway, Walpole, Dedham, Bolton, East Braintree, Scituate, Provincetown, Westminster, West Newbury and Tyngsboro'. In 1860 he went to West Newton, where he has since resided and been employed as a teacher in the West Newton English and Classical school. He taught for the last time Friday of last week, when he was attacked with a cold, which resulted in typhoid pneumonia.

Five of his Concord pupils became judges, one a doctor of divinity and another was Gen. Whipple, who was killed in the late war. Mr. Allen was a perfect encyclopædia of information to all inquiring minds and was probably the oldest teacher in active service in this country. He had an exact knowledge of five languages beside the English, and since he has been connected with the school at West Newton (which is conducted by his nephews Nathaniel, James Joseph and George) he has had special tutorship of the Spanish students. From 1818 to 1876 he never lost but three school days on account of sickness. While attending the bi-centennial at Medfield in February, 1876, a coach in which he was seated was overturned, and he had seven ribs, his shoulder and collar-bone broken, and was consequently disabled for a few months. He had a great love for teaching, and his happiest days were spent in the school room. The family has been remarkable for longevity, and in a family of eight children there had been no death for 77 years until that of the late Dr. Joseph Allen of Northboro. Among the thousands of pupils scattered all over the country, there is probably not one but that holds Mr. Allen in particular and loving remembrance. He was a modest and unostentatious man, and will be greatly missed in the school and village. He was a representative, a relic even, of the old fashioned pedagogue, a man whose every thought seemed given to the pursuit or giving of knowledge; deeply impressed with the importance and responsibility of his calling; as regular as the sun and the personification of faithfulness. Hidden as his life was from general view by the perpetual routine of his duties and the influence of a modest, retiring disposition, it was yet filled with worthy achievements, many of which might be told with great effect in the biography of a more prominent man. Mr. Allen leaves a widow and four children, Horatio F., a former teacher and resident of Newtonville, now of Cleveland, O.; R. Alfred, a druggist in the latter place; Edgar, a physician in Youngstown, O.; and Mrs. C. C. Chamberlain of New York city.

Mr. Allen was an original Abolitionist; a strong temperance man and was at one time proprietor of a temperance hotel in Northfield, which he kept for several years. He was deacon of the Unitarian church in Northfield when the late Rev. Dr. Hosmer (a former clergyman in Newton) was located in that town.

Mr. Allen was of the sixth generation who had lived in the old Allen homestead, which was bought of the Indians. He had been away from there for about sixty-five years.

The funeral services at his late residence on Cherry street, were very simple and consisted mainly of prayer by his former pastor, the Rev. Francis Tiffany. The body was then taken to the old Allen homestead in Medfield, where the principal ceremonies took place. These were opened with appropriate remarks by Mr. George E. Allen of West Newton, who made special reference to the return of their beloved uncle to the old ancestral home, at his request. He was followed by Mr. Joseph A., formerly of Westboro, and Mr. Edward A. H. Allen, formerly connected with the West Newton school, but now a resident of Northboro. Rev. C. C. Sewall, 80 years of age, the old clergyman of Medfield, then delivered the address.

In the prayer which followed, the reverend gentleman for a moment lost his consciousness, but recovering himself, went on connectively. The singing, by the nephews and neices, was led by Miss Nellie Allen, formerly of West Newton. After these services the procession was formed and the body was taken to the old family burial lot, where it was interred, and where the last interment was made forty-nine years ago. The casket was draped with Hillandsia or Southern moss, which was sent from Mississippi. There were many floral tributes, several of them being contributed by the scholars of the West Newton School. There was a large attendance of old people at the services in both places.

At West Newton, May 25, Phineas Allen, aged 83 years, 7 mos.

BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 27, 1885.

Mr. Phineas Allen, the oldest teacher in this State, and probably the oldest in the country, died at West Newton on Monday at the age of 83 years. Since 1860 he has taught the languages in the West Newton English and Classical School. He began to teach in Sherborn, and had taught in Concord, Medway, Walpole, Dedham, Bolton, East Braintree, Scituate, Provincetown, Westminster, West Newbury and Tyngsboro and Brookline. He graduated from Harvard in 1825, and his classmates were Charles Francis Adams, Judge Seth Ames, Jonathan Chapman, Admiral Charles Henry Davis, C. K. Dillaway, Horatio Greenough, the Rev. Dr. Hedge and Thomas Sherwin. He was a perfect scholar and an encyclopædia of information. He was remarkably healthy and taught up to last Thursday, since 18.5, almost uninterruptedly. His remarkable pupils were the late Judge Albert Nelson, the late William Whitney, legal adviser to President Lincoln, Judge E. R. Hoar and H. D. Thoreau. At the age of of six years Senator Hoar was his pupil in Latin. In 1836 Mr. Allen was principal of the Northfield Academy.

BOSTON HERALD.

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1885.

A NOTED INSTRUCTOR GONE.

Phineas Allen of West Newton Passes Away After a Brief Illness.

Phineas Allen, a noted teacher in the Massachusetts schools, and for the past 25 years a professor in Allen's English and classical school at West Newton, died last evening in that place, after a short illness of pneumonia. Mr. Allen was born in Medfield in 1802, and was a descendant of one of the first settlers of that town. He was probably the oldest teacher in active service in the states, if not the country. He first commenced to teach in the town of Sherborn in 1818, having received a certificate from the minister of the town, Rev. S. B. Townsend. He was then 17 years of age, and his oldest pupil (who is now living) was 16. In describing the schoolroom, a few years ago, he stated that there was only one room in the whole building, and it was warmed with a large fireplace, in which wood four feet long was used. The following winter he taught in the east district in Northboro. In 1821 he entered Harvard College, and the day previous to examination he walked from Northboro to Boston, and, after passing examination, walked back again. At that time students were allowed to be absent from their class in winter to teach, and the first winter in college he taught in Chelmsford, now Lowell, there being but one factory

in the place at that time. During his last four years of college life he taught the children of the late Dr. Ware. He graduated from college in 1823 and the following Monday after commencement, he commenced to teach in Brookline. He remained there two years and in 1827 went to Concord and taught eight years. During that time he fitted for college

The late Judge Albert Nelson, the late William Whiting, legal advisor to President Lincoln during the war, Judge E. R. Hoar and Henry D. Thoreau. Senator Hoar of Worcester was also a pupil of his, commencing the study of Latin with him at the age of 6. In 1836 he left Concord and took charge of the academy in Northfield, where he remained 11 years. After leaving Northfield, he taught in Medway, Walpole, Dedham, Bolton, East Braintree, Scituate, Provincetown, Westminster, West Newbury and Tyngsboro. In 1860 he became connected with Allen's English and Classical school, where he has remained ever since, and has been actively engaged in teaching up to last Thursday. Among his classmates in college were Charles Francis Adams, Judge Seth Ames, Jonathan Chapman, an ex-mayor of Boston, Admiral Charles H. Davis, who did such good service in the late war on the Mississippi, C. K. Dillaway, late master of the Latin school, and Horatio Greenough, the sculptor. While in Concord, five of his pupils became judges, one a doctor of divinity, and one a general—Gen. Whipple, who was killed in the late war. Mr. Allen was a remarkable man in many ways. He was a perfect encyclopædia of information, and was always open to every inquiring mind. He had a perfect knowledge of five languages beside the English, and since he has been at West Newton he had special tutorship of the Spanish students. From 1818 to 1876 he was never out of school from sickness but three days. In the latter year he was injured by the upsetting of his carriage, which disabled him for a few months. He had a great love for teaching, and his happiest days were spent in the schoolroom. His family has been remarkable for longivity. In a family of eight children, when the late Dr. Joseph Allen of Northboro died, there had been no death for 77 years. He enjoyed remarkably good health for a man of his age. He was well up to last Friday, when he contracted a cold, which developed into typhoid-pneumonia.

Boston Daily Globe.
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1885.

AN OLD TEACHER GONE.

Death of Phineas Allen of Newton, the Oldest Teacher in the Country.

NEWTON, May 26.—At his residence in West Newton died last night one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, teacher in the country, Phineas Allen; since 1860 teacher of languages in the English and Classical School at West Newton. He was 83 years old, and began teaching in 1818 at Sherborn, at the age of 17, his oldest pupil being only one year his junior. In 1821 he entered Harvard College, walking thirty miles to and fro from Northboro, where he was then teaching. His classmates were Charles Francis Adams, Judge Seth Ames, Jonathan Chapman, Admiral Charles Henry Davis, C. K. Dillaway, Horatio Greenough, Rev. Dr. Hedge and Thomas Sherwin, late master of the Boston Latin School. While teaching in Concord, he fitted for college the late Judge Albert Nelson, the late Wm. Whitney, legal adviser to President Lincoln, Judge E. R. Hoar and H. D. Thoreau. Senator Hoar of Worcester studied Latin under him at the age of 6 years. In 1836 he left Concord, where he had been teaching several years, and took charge of the academy at Northfield. He has also taught in Medway, Walpole, Dedham, Bolton, East Braintree, Scituate, Provincetown, Westminster, West Newbury, Tyngsboro. He was conferred the degree of A. B. while teaching at Brookline in 1825. He was born in Medfield, and his family is one remarkable for its longevity, as up to the the death of the late Dr. Joseph Allen no death had occurred for 77¼ years. He was well known all over the State and was an authority on the languages, being a master of four.

APPENDIX-III.
THE CONCORD ACADEMIC DEBATING SOCIETY

I am reproducing here all but three pages of the important manuscript entitled "Records of the Concord Academic Debating Society---Mr. Phinias [sic] Allen——Teacher," now in the Concord Free Public Library. It will give the reader the full record, which has necessarily been abbreviated in the foregoing annals. It is fast approaching illegibility. Page 21 is blank. Pages 1 and 20 are edited immediately below:

Constitution [page 1]

Art. 1.st This Society shall be called "The Concord Academic Debating Society

Art 2d The disputants shall speak according to age, the eldest taking the affirmative

Art 3d The regular disputants shall begin by speaking twice each, then the question shall be open to the other members, who may speak twice each. The affirmative disputant may then speak, & his opponent may close the question.

Art 4th. There shall be no speaking except such as is permitted in Article 3d, except to correct some misstatement; or misunderstanding

Art 5th. No member shall speak while another is standing with the above exception, & Every member shall seat himself as soon as he has done speaking

Art 6th Five members shall be necessary to make a quorum

Art 7th. A Secretary shall be chosen who shall hold his office Three months.

Art 8th. Strict order shall be enforced by the President.

Art 9th. All business shall be transacted before speaking

Art.10th Meetings shall be called to order at 7 o Clock

Art 11th. No member shall be dismissed without a reasonable excuse.

Art 12th Every member shall either speak himself, or procure one to speak for him.

By-laws, continued from page 2 [page 20]

9th. Every member absenting himself without a reasonable excuse, shall light up the room for the two following evenings.

10th All excuses shall be submitted to the Society.

11th That persons who do not attend the Academy, be chosen members.

12th Members upon admission into the Society, shall pay 12 1/2 cents.

13th The regular disputants shall not change the question after two days previous to the meeting, and shall as soon as possible give notice to all the members.

14. No member shall be obliged to bring in questions. (Jan.y 21. 1830.)

15. The President shall offer a question when the disputants do not.

2

Members	E. L. D. Society.
1. Edward [illegible]	1. Jonathon Fay Barret — Concord
2. William [illegible]	2. Edward Henry Whale
3. John [illegible]	3. [illegible]
4. Rufus [illegible]	4. Benj. F. Whyte — Brookline
5. Josiah [illegible] Davis	5. Isaac Fiske
6. Ebenezer [illegible] Hunt	6. William Baker — Boston.
7. Daniel Baxter Shadman — Boston.	7. Geo. Moore — Concord.
8. Nathaniel George [illegible]	8. Charles Bowers — Concord.
9. William Mackey — Richard — Concord	9. Edward Wright — Concord.
	10. Andrew Fiske — Weston.

Boy Debate ——— Received November 5th.

1st The disputants may change sides if they can so agree.

2nd The Secretary may be excused from declaiming ½ of the time.

3rd If the member, after being called to order, shall still persist in disorder, he shall lose his right of speaking for that evening.

(Signed) Rufus B Lawrence

4th The disputants may alter the ——Chairman—question if they chose

5th Any member absenting himself without a reasonable excuse as if he belong to the academy must speak on the following Saturday.

6th Each member shall bring in one question every fortnight.

7th The Honorary Members who usually attend shall debate like other members.

8. The members shall pay from time to time such sums as shall be agreed for defraying necessary expenses.

See— Carried over to page 24

Tuesday Oct 7th 1828. 3

The members of the Club were called to order at 6½ o'clock. The regular affirmative disputant being absent, he appointed Wm Whiting to fill his place. The question is as follows. "Has the invention of gunpowder been a benefit to mankind?" Wm Whiting, Aff. & Rufus Lawrence, Neg. Decided by the Pres. in the Aff. The Presidents decision was confirmed by a majority of 5 to 2. The Constitution, as written on page 1st was accepted. Club adjourned, at half past 9. p. m.

Wm Whiting, Sec.

Wednesday Evening Oct. 15. 1828.

The club was called to order at the usual hour. After the proceedings of the last meeting were read, a committee consisting of Rufus Lawrence & Gardner Davis, were chosen to draw up a code of by-laws. The question was as follows: "Has the Crusades been a benefit to the christian nations of Europe? Gardner Davis. Aff. The negative disputant being unavoidably absent, he appointed William Whiting to fill his place. The President decided in the Affirmative, & his decision was confirmed by a majority of One. W. W. Sec

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Wednesday Eve. Oct 22.

Club met at the usual hour & adjourned, after passing a few by laws, the copies of which the Secretary has not received.

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Wednesday Eve. m October 20th 1828.

Club met as usual. The question for discussion was as follows" Will this Country always be free?" The regular disputants were, E Stearns, affirmative, W Whiting Jr, negative. The Presidents decision was in the affirmation, but his decision was reversed by every member except the affirmative disputant. Club then adjourned. W. W. Secy

Wednesday Eve. Nov 5th 1828.

The Club was called to order at the usual hour. No business concerning b[illegible] the Society. The disputants, (John Rowan, Affirmative, Rufus B Lawrence, negative,) proceeded to discuss the following question, "Are good novels preferable to good Histories?" By dint of good argumentation, the question was decided in the negative by a majority of 4. All the members were present. The Secretary, having such a cold that his voice sounded like an old fashioned spinning wheel, as a special favor Mr Stearns read the proceedings of the last meeting for him. Club adjourned at an early hour. W. W. Secretary.

Tuesday eve. Nov 11. 1828.

Club met at half past 6 o'clock & was called to order. The first thing that came before the club, was the protest of one or two factious members against the journal of last meeting, a motion was made by this factious member to erase the last journal of proceedings, but all his eloquence was exerted in vain & the vote was not passed.

Many other faults were found against the above mentioned 5
journal, which are not on the mentioning. Rockwood Hoar
was in the negative, & Gardner Davis, affirmative, in discussing
the following question. "Has Italy produced as great a
man as Greece? Many arguments were offered on
both sides. Socrates was taken by those who spoke in the
Negative, & of those who spoke in the affirmative, some took
Cicero, others Fabius, & Cincinnatus. The debate in the
first part of the evening was quite animating. The President
decided in the Negative, but his decision was reversed
by a majority of 4. Club adjourned, after having past the
following — Vote.

"No member shall be allowed to call another member
to order." — William Whiting Secretary. ~

N.B. Rufus Bigelow Lawrence spoke in the affirmative!

Wednesday, Nov. 19th. 1828

The Club met as usual. & all the time of the scholiars
was spent in preparing for examination, which took
place on the 22d, so that they had no time to prepare
themselves, as disputants. Therefore no question was
discussed. The club voted that no meeting should be
held on the 25th. it being then vacation, & most of
the members would be out of town. Soon after this
vote was passed, the secretary resigned, & with much
pleasure. Club adjourned,

William Whiting. Sec.

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Wednesday the 16th 1828

The club was called to order by the President at quarter past seven, after the declamation. William M Richard was admitted as a member they then made choice of Josiah G Davis as secretary and forced him to accept. They then made the following motions that a committee which should consist of two per se invite several persons to become members of this club. also they altered the evening to Friday also the forth by law all of which were passed they then agreed that no question should be discused that evening they the Club then adjourned. The question for the next meeting is as follows, are the pleasures of hope as great as those of memory. the disputants are W whitney affirmative W Orchard negative

Josiah G Davis Sec

Thursday Dec 23 1828

The club was called to order by the President at quarter before seven. after the declamation. They heard the report of the committee and admited Jonathon Clay Bassett as a member. They then proceeded to discuss the question the debate was interesting although there was a misunderstanding about the sides of the question. the question was decided by the President in the affirmative his opinion was confirmed by a majority of the club adjourned

Josiah G Davis Sec

Friday January 2 1829

The President being absent David B Stedman was chosen President protem, after the declamation, the following question was divised Has France or England produced a greater man as Lafayette John Hinman being sent out of town William Wheeling took the side of the question Lewis B Lawrence being on the negative. much eloquence being used on both sides but the question was decided in the affirmation. The President decision was confirmed by a majority of 1 the club ajourned Josiah G Davis Sec

Friday January 9th 1829

The club met as usuall and was called to order by the President at seven o'clock after the declamation. Was fined 6¼ by law. we then proceeded to discuss the following question do talents contribute more to advancement in life than riches. Lewis G Davis Aff Ebenezer R Hoar Neg. the President decided in the Aff his opinion was confirmed unanimously. The club ajourned Josiah G Davis Sec

Friday January 16th 1829

The club met and was called to order by the President ½ before 7 o'clock After the declamation Edward Henry White was admitted as a member and after transacting the usual business of the club nearly adjourned by a dispute of a certain member. there

& then proceeded to discuss the folloing. question.
Which is the worst passion envy or ambition Daniel B
Steadman Aff George Parker Neg the President decided
in the Aff his opinion was confirmed unanamously.
Club ajourned & past 8 oclock Josiah G Davis sec.

Friday January 29 1827

The club was called to order by the President & past
seven after the declamation the following question was
discussed Was the French Revelution a benefit to Europe.
The question was decided in the affirmative. The
disputants were Rufus R Lawrence aff J G Davis neg
Club ajourned J G Davis Sec

The club met on Friday February 3, 1827
The club met as usuall and was call to order
by the president at 7 o clock, after the declamation
the following question was discussed, Was Caesar
justly slain. & Rose aff Daniel Steadman neg
the president decided in favor of negative
his decision now confirmed by a majority
2 Josiah G Davis Sec

Friday February 13th 1827
The club met as usuall as the minutes of the
meeting was taken up with preparing for an exhibi-
nation therefore no question was
discussed that eve J G Davis Sec

Sund. y March 6th 1814.

The weather being unpleasant, & the Members thinking it best not to have a meeting in the evening, the Club was called to order by the President at 12 o clock P. M.

It was voted to dispense no question as the meeting was called to order, merely to choose the officers for the ensuing 3 months. William Mackey Prichard was unanimously chosen Secretary. He was not present at the meeting but I hope that he will not disappoint the club by refusing to accept the office. The disputants at the beginning of every term are, the Oldest, on the affirmative, and the next oldest on the Negative. Wm Whiting being the oldest member must take the affirmative & Wm Prichard the (next oldest) the negative of the following question, which the Club accepted, but which the disputants have a right to alter if they can so agree.

"Do Children imbibe [illegible] and imitate virtue, as readily as vice?" I was chosen secretary pro. tempore. to record the proceedings of this meeting. There being no more business. The Club adjourned to Thursday, on which day it was voted to meet.

William Whiting Jr Sec. pro. tem

Thursday September 24 1829.

The society met at 7 o'clock. A part of the members declaimed. Geo Moore was chosen Secretary. Mr White & W. Kean and G Moore were chosen a committee to make by-laws and report at the next meeting. Ordd— that each member shall bring in one question every fortnight.

Also, that the Honorary Members who usually attend, shall debate like other members.

The question given out for this evening, "Was Caesar justly slain?" was then announced. G. Moore. Affr. E. W. Kean Neg. The Affirmative disputant having, through mistake, having prepared himself to speak on the Neg. the question, by the consent of the other disputant, was altered thus, "Was Caesar unjustly slain?" The disputants spoke thrice each, and the President decided in the Affr. His decision was confirmed by a vote of 6 to 1. The following question was given out for the next evenings discussion. "Was Demosthenes a greater man than Cicero?" Adjourned

Geo Moore Secy

Friday Oct 2. 1829.

Club met at ½ past 6 o'clock

A part of the members declaimed. The record of the proceedings of last meeting was read. The following votes were then passed, viz:

That there be an immediate assessment made, of

the members for the purpose of providing five lamps, a
box of oil to be the society — That one dollar and
twenty five cents be the sum assessed — and, that those
who will, probably attend the Academy only the re-
mainder of the present term pay but one half the
sum that the others pay. — E.R. Hoar and G. Moore
were appointed a committee to purchase the lamps.
E. H. Rice was chosen treasurer — The committee ap-
pointed last evening then reported as follows — That
they had attended to their duty and begged leave to submit
the following by-laws

First the members shall pay semi-annually to time, such
sums as shall be judged by the club for defraying nec-
essary expences. That every member absenting himself
without a reasonable excuse, shall light up the room
for the two following evenings. That all excuses shall be
submitted to the society. The above by-laws were accep-
ted by the society. — The following question was then
selected for the next weeks discussion, "Does it require more
talents to make a good writer, than a good extemporaneous
speaker?" — The subject for this evening "Was Demosthe-
nes a greater man than Cicero?" was discussed by Isaac
Fisher, Jr. and Benj. F. White Esq. who were supported
respectively, by E.R. Hoar and G. Moore. The
President decided in favor of Jr. and his decision
his decision was confirmed by a majority of three.
Adjourned

Geo. Moore Sec'y

Friday Oct. 9. 1829.

The Club was called to order at about ½ past 6 o'clock. There were a few members present. The record was then read. "Does it require more talent to make a good writer than a good extemporaneous speaker?" was discussed by N. Duncan Aff. and E. R. Hoar Neg. The debate was not very animated, this evening, on account of some misunderstanding in the question. The President decided in the Negative, and upon an appeal his decision was confirmed by a majority of four. The members then presented their questions, four of which were ordered to be put on file. The question chosen for discussion the next evening, is as follows "Is the Militia System, as at present conducted, beneficial to the community?" — Adjourned

Geo. Moore Sec'y.

Thursday Oct. 15. 1829.

The society met at 6½ o'clock. Declamations were heard from the members. The Secretary read the records of last meeting. Voted— That persons who do not attend the Academy be chosen members— That members upon admission into the society pay 12½ cents. Charles Bowers was then chosen a member. G. Moore Aff. and H. Bates Neg. discussed the question "Is the Militia System, as at present conducted, beneficial to the community?" E. R. Hoar spoke on the Neg.

The President gave his decision in the Negative, and 13.
there being an appeal his decision was reversed by a majority
of three. The following question was selected for the next
discussion, "Is it desirable that the Emperor Nicolas should
drive the Turks from Europe?" Adjourned

Geo. Moore Secy.

Thursday Oct. 22. 1829.

Met at ½ before 7. The
members declaimed as usual. The Secretary read
the records. The following question was selected for the
next evening's discussion "Which is the greatest in-
vention, the art of Printing or the Mariners Compass"
The members, each, brought in a question, and all
were ordered to be put upon file. The question for
this evening "Is it desirable that the Emperor Nicolas
should drive the Turks from Europe?" was then discussed,
Isaac Fiske Aff & I. G. Davis Neg. E. R. Hoar &
G. Moore spoke on the question. The President
decided in the Aff. and upon an appeal, his decis-
ion was confirmed by a majority of 2. Adjourned.

Geo. Moore Secy.

Thursday Oct. 29. 1829.

Club met at the usual
time. Declamations were heard. The following
question was selected for a week to come "Is a good
memory preferable to a good understanding in order to

be a distinguished scholar at school?"
The disputants for this evening were B. F. White in the affirmative and E. R. Hoar in the negative, by whom was discussed this question "Which is the greatest invention, the art of Printing, or the Mariners Compass?" The aff. was supported by J. G. Davis and the neg. by G. Moore. The President having decided in the Neg. his decision was reversed by a majority of one.
Adjourned Geo. Moore Sec'y.

Thursday Nov 5 1829
The society met at ½ past 6. A part of the members had pieces. Questions were brought in and ordered to be put on file.
The discussion of the question selected for debate next followed "Is a good memory preferable to a good understanding in order to be a distinguished scholar at school?" E. Wright Aff. H. Thoreau Neg. The affirmative disputant, through negligence, had prepared nothing for debate, and the negative, not much more. Accordingly, no other member speaking, the President decided in the Neg. His decision was confirmed by a majority of four. Such a debate, if it may be called so, as we have had, this evening, I hope never again, will be witnessed in this house, or recorded in this book; it is not only a waste of time, but of paper to record such proceedings, of wood and oil. The question was selected for a week hence, "Do people generally improve.

well, one half of their time?" Adjourned
Geo. Moore Sec'y.

Thursday Nov. 12 1829.

The President (Mr. Allen) being absent, the Secretary called the club to order, at 6½ o'clock, and E. R. Hoar was chosen President pro. tem. Some of the members declaimed. The records were read. The following question was selected for discussion next evening, "Has Intemperance been productive of so much evil in the world as Slavery?"

This evening's question was then discussed "Do people generally improve well, one half of their time?" G. Moore Aff. and W. Baker Neg. J. G. Davis supported the Neg. Considerable time was taken up in the debate, and the President decided in the Neg. His decision was confirmed by a majority of three.

Much disturbance was manifested on the part of some members and the meeting was conducted like a ship in a storm having lost her rudder, although the President pro. tem. did all in his power to preserve order. Adjourned
Geo. Moore Sec'y.

Thursday November 19. 1829.

Club met as usual and members declaimed. Secretary read the records.

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Questions were offered and some ordered to be put upon file. Charles Bowers attended this meeting, and for the first time. Voted – that there be no meeting next week, on account of Thanksgiving, and vacation. The following question was adopted for the next discussion "Ought the poor to be supported by law?"

Then followed the discussion of the question "Has Intemperance been productive of so much evil in the world as Slavery J. Fiske. Aff. & E. Wright. Neg. The Aff was supported by J. G. Davis & G. Moore – Neg. by E. K. Hoar. After a long debate the President decided in the affirmative. This decision was confirmed by a majority of seven. Adjourned

Geo. Moore Secy.

Thursday eve Dec. 10. 1829.

At ½ past six precisely, the club came to order, and members declaimed. It being the first meeting of the term, it became necessary to choose a Secretary; accordingly, votes were carried in and Geo Moore. reelected to that office, which he accepted.

There was considerable difficulty occasioned in selecting a question for next evening, but happily, at length, the Secretary pitched upon one which suited, and was adopted as follows "Do children imitate, imbibe, or adopt virtues as soon as vices?"

The disputants G. Moore, aff. and C. Bowers. N.g. then

commenced the discussion of the question "Ought the poor to be supported by law?" The debate was animated and continued some time. E. R. Hoar supported the Negy. The President, after a few remarks, decided in the affr. An appeal was made, and the decision of the President reversed by a majority of one!

Adjourned

Geo. Moore Secy

Thursday Dec. 17. 1829.

The Secretary being absent, Henry Thoreau was chosen Sec. pro. tem. and he neglecting to perform his duty by recording the proceedings, it falls to the lot of the Sec. to record, by hearsay, what was done. The Society came together at the usual time, and the question selected last evening, "Do children imitate, imbibe or adopt virtues as soon as vices?" was taken up by the disputants, and left to be discussed again and decided at some future time. Adjourned

Geo. Moore Secy.

Thursday eve Dec 24. 1829.

Club met at a little past 6 o'clock. Declamations. Questions were brought in and ordered to be put upon file. The following was selected for a week hence "Which would be the greatest

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loss to the literary community, that of all the Historical, or Philosophical writings?" — The question for this evening "Ought Lotteries to be granted for any use?" was taken up by Edward Wright Aff. & Henry Thoreau Neg. and supported by E. R. Hoar in the aff. and J. G. Davis & G. Moore in the Neg. The debate was rather long. The President gave his decision in the Neg. An appeal was made and his decision confirmed nem. con. The Club was honoured by the presence of one of its honorary members, Wm. Whiting Jr. Adjourned

Geo. Moore Sec'y.

Thursday Dec. 31. 1829.

Club met about 6 o'clock. A number declaimed. The Sec. read the Constitution and by-laws of the society. This question was selected for next week "Are Dancing Schools beneficial? The discussion then followed upon the question "Which would be the greatest loss to the literary community, that of all the Historical or Philosophical writings?" The Disputants were G. Moore Aff. and C. Bowers Neg. Wm. Whiting Jr. spoke upon the Neg. and E. R. Hoar began to speak upon the Aff. but "gave up the Ship". Much difficulty was occasioned in deciding what writings were included under these heads. The President decided in the aff. and upon an appeal his decession was confirmed by a majority of two. Wm. M. Prichard

a fine member was present and declaimed and will
notable attend for the future.
Adjourned Geo Moore Sec'y

Thursday evening Jan'y 7 1836

Club was called to order
at the usual time. After the declamations the Sec.
read the minds of last meeting. Voted to meet for the
future at the house of C + ☆. E. R. Hoar read a commu-
nication from a member of the club (B F. White) the
import of which was, that he should like to be re-ad-
mitted (he having absented himself for several meetings)
provoding that he should not be obliged to declaim.
Much was said upon this, but it was voted that he
should be re-admitted with this provision, considering
the circumstances that his father wished him to be excused
from declamation. This question was selected for next week
"Ought Congress to take any measures to prevent the Indians
of Georgia from being driven to the Country beyond the Missis-
sippi?" The question "Are Dancing Schools beneficial"
was discussed by Ex Wright Aff and W. Mc Pritchard Neg.
J. G. Davis & G. Moore spoke in the Aff & E. R. Hoar Neg.
The debate was pretty long and interesting. But in one thing
some of the members violated the laws, which was, in using
personalities. The President decided in the Aff. and his
decession was confirmed by a majority of one. Andrew
Fisher was admitted as a member. Adjourned
Geo. Moore Sec'y

22 Thursday January 14. 1830.

The club met and was called to order at 6 o'clock. Proclamations. The Secretary being absent, Charles Bowers was chosen Sec. pro. tem. Voted — that the Regular Disputants shall not change the question after two days previous to the meeting, and shall as soon as possible give notice to all the members. Voted — that a Lamp-lighter be appointed by the President, to act for three successive evenings.

This question was selected for discussion next week "Ought the custom of wearing mourning for deceased friends, to be discontinued?"

The question selected, last evening, was altered by the disputants to the following "Would it be expedient that all North America should be vested in one republican government?" The disputants were A. G. Davis Affr. and E. R. Hoar Neg. The question was very ably discussed and decided in the Neg. by the President whose decision was confirmed nem. con.

Adjourned C. Bowers Sec. pro. tem.

by
Geo. Moore Sec'y.

Thursday eve January 21. 1830. 23

Club met at the usual time. Members declaimed. Record of last meeting was read.

Voted - that no member be obliged to bring in questions for the future. Also - that the President shall offer a question when the disputants do not.

The disputants for next evening selected the following question "Ought imprisonment for debt to be abolished?"

This evening's question "Ought the custom of wearing mourning for deceased friends to be discontinued?" was taken up by Andrew Fiske Aff. and I. G. Davis Neg. (in the room of Henry Thoreau) The Aff. of the question was supported by C. Bowers, E. Wright & G. Moore - the Neg. by W. M. Prichard. The debate continued for some length of time, and excited considerable interest. The President gave his decision in the Aff. which was confirmed nem. con. Adjourned

Geo. Moore Sec'y.

Thursday January 28. 1830.

Club met and heard declamations. The Sec. read the proceedings of last meeting, and made a Statement of the treasury. Another club being about to be formed and most of the members of this society being about to join it, it was Voted "to discontinue our meetings for the present."

24 to place the money remaining in the treasury, & all property belonging to the society, in the hands of the President - and that the President be authorised to call a meeting of the club whenever he shall think proper.

Also - That the thanks of this society be presented to our President for his attendance at our meetings, & supplying us with wood.

The discussion of the question "Ought imprisonment for debt to be abolished?" was commenced by G. Moore Affr. and (the regular disputants on the Neg. being absent) by E. R. Hoar in the Neg. The sides were respectively supported by J. G. Davis & W. M. Prichard. The debate was continued some time, when the President decided in the Neg. An appeal was made, & the President's decision reversed by a majority of one.

The President gave us some very good advice, concerning our new club, as it regards speaking in debate, and carrying it on with spirit.

Adjourned sine die.

Geo. Moore Secy.

RECEIPT SIGNED BY THOREAU'S FATHER. In the papers of Nathan Brooks, basement of the Concord Free Public Library. (Edited with permission.)

Oct. 7. 1839. Rec'd of N. Brooks two dollars being one half of the amt. of the premium on the Policy of insurance of Elizabeth Thoreau's life. $2.00 John Thoreau

by J. Thoreau